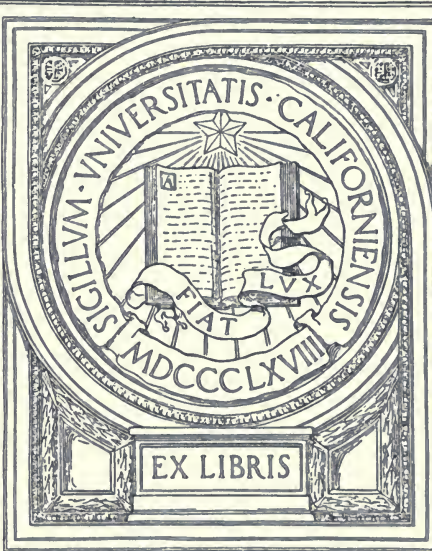


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SHIPWRECK

3

OF THE

STIRLING CASTLE,

CONTAINING

A FAITHFUL NARRATIVE OF THE DREADFUL
SUFFERINGS OF THE CREW,

AND THE

CRUEL MURDER OF CAPTAIN FRASER
BY THE SAVAGES.

ALSO,

THE HORRIBLE BARBARITY OF THE CANNIBALS INFLICTED UPON

THE CAPTAIN'S WIDOW,

WHOSE UNPARALLELED SUFFERINGS ARE STATED BY HERSELF, AND
CORROBORATED BY THE OTHER SURVIVORS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

THE NARRATIVE OF THE WRECK OF THE
CHARLES EATON,

IN THE SAME LATITUDE.

Embellished with Engravings, Portraits, and Scenes illustrative of the Narrative.

BY JOHN CURTIS.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY GEORGE VIRTUE, IVY LANE,

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FOR PLACING THE PLATES.

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INTRODUCTION.

MULTITUDINOUS as are the ills which “flesh is heir to,” and multifarious as are the miseries of human life, they become, from their frequency, common-place subjects of remark, and merely excite a transient sympathy in the mind. There are, however, incidents in the pilgrimage of some, which force themselves upon our observation with a power which at once arouses our attention, startles our imagination, excites our surprise, and calls forth our admiration; such is the history about to be narrated. To develope to the world the sufferings of our species, is at no time a pleasant task; but when a writer has to detail the hardships which the fairest, the most sensitive, and the kindest—“the best gift God bestowed on man” have endured, perils unheard of in modern times, and sufferings almost beyond human endurance, its unpleasantness is ten-fold augmented.

It would be premature to anticipate all the events which will be detailed in the subsequent pages, further than at present to observe, that being communicated by the lips of truth, they shall, as far as the power of the writer extends, be narrated by the pen of fidelity; and his aim will

be to convey a moral lesson, and useful instruction; as in the present enlightened age, a volume without these adjuncts, would be read by few, and by none to permanent advantage.

The most superficial reader, even upon a cursory glance at the following pages, will behold the mysterious dealings of the Supreme with his creatures; he will be led to reflect on the perils of those who "*go down to the sea in ships,*" taught to believe the truth of the declaration of the royal prophet, that "*the dark places of the earth are full of cruelty;*" and moreover, during his perusal, he will be led to admire the beautiful and heart-cheering effusion of Cowper, in his poem on Alex. Selkirk, who was cast upon the island of Juan Fernandez.*

* It would be almost superfluous to state, that the ingenious De Foe founded his history of Robinson Crusoe upon the misfortune of the above-named shipwrecked mariner; and perhaps this incident would not have been alluded to, had it not been for a statement lately made, that the island which was the theatre of Selkirk's ruminations, has, by a freak of nature, as some would term it, been engulfed in the sea; but we would say, by the fiat of the Almighty Governor of the universe, by whose power "*valleys are exalted, and mountains brought low.*"

Since penning the above reflection, the following account has reached us of the disappearance of the Island of Juan Fernandez, through an earthquake; and we avail ourselves of giving it an early and extended notice:—"The Isle of Juan Fernandez has recently disappeared from the South Sea; it was

‘There’s MERCY in every place,
And mercy—encouraging thought !
Gives to every affliction a grace,
And reconciles man to his lot.’

At the period we commence our task, the public have been informed of the perils and deaths of the

doubtless produced at some remote period by a volcanic eruption, and it has been destroyed by an earthquake. Between the double catastrophe which marked its origin and its disappearance, no history in the world has made so little noise as the history of this island.

“Countries, like men, have their personal glory ; the Isle of Juan Fernandez has certainly had its share, in having afforded shelter to the shipwrecked mariner, to whom Daniel De Foe gave the immortal name of Robinson Crusoe. The island took its name from Juan Fernandez, a Spanish pilot of the sixteenth century. He was in the habit of sailing along the South American coast, from Peru to Chili, meeting with no enemies but the south winds; these were, however, such redoubtable ones that they became a rude, although a sufficiently severe school of navigation. It occurred to him on one occasion whether by putting out further to sea he might not avoid these terrible winds. He made the trial, and found that it was crowned with success ; his vessel glided over the sea as if by enchantment.

“During one of his voyages, about 1572, Fernandez discovered a coast, which he knew could not be that of Chili ; and, happier than Columbus himself, he called it by his own name. He found that it was an island ; and on his return he recounted wonders of the place ; but when he proposed taking a colony out there, the Spanish government showed no disposition to favour his design. Fernandez, however, established himself there ; but after some time he abandoned the island, leaving behind him only a few goats, which afterwards greatly multi-

captain and some of the crew of the *Stirling Castle*, and the sufferings of the survivors ; but a mere *epitome* only has been given, and it will be our object to narrate and arrange them link by link in the chain of melancholy recital. In doing this we shall not be under the painful necessity of contradicting the facts already before the public, but we shall be enabled to confirm them by unquestionable corroborative testimony, both oral and documentary.

It has been said that had the credence of the facts narrated depended upon the veracity of the *ipse dixit* of one person, doubts might have arisen as to whether it was possible that human nature (one a delicate female too), could have

plied. It has been doubted by some whether Spain allowed him to retain quiet possession of the place ; but it is more probable that the cause of his quitting it was a return of his passion for the sea, and the life to which he had been so long accustomed. To his adventurous life he then returned ; and it is by some authors asserted that he was the first to discover New Zealand.

“ This island was situate in lat. 33° 40' S. and long. 78° 50' W., and about 300 miles from the Chilian coast. It was of an irregular oblong shape, the greatest length being twelve and its utmost breadth six miles. It abounded with sandal and yellow woods, together with great varieties of palm trees, and the coast supplied abundance of crustaceous and other fish. Among the celebrated navigators who have touched here was Lord Anson, who anchored in a port which he called “ English Harbour.”

borne up under tortures so numerous and enduring, and insults so diabolical. In order to elicit truth, and as much as possible to chase away scepticism, we have been unremitting in our endeavours to obtain facts from the lips of such of the survivors as we could have access to ; and the result has been, that the “ thrice-told tale ” of misery and misfortune corresponds and harmonizes together, and a few contradictions, which at first view caught our observation, have been satisfactorily explained by reference to the time, place and circumstances under which the narrators were placed.

It will be the object of the compiler, as he progresses with the Narrative, to have recourse to such adventitious aid as he may deem essential to explain some facts connected with it which might otherwise be ambiguous, and perhaps inexplicable. The manners and customs of the barbarians, among whom the sufferers were cast, will be given as far as certainty will enable us, nor will the natural history of the soil, &c. be overlooked.

In order that the work may be interesting to the nautical reader—we shall present an account, from the most authentic charts, &c. &c., of the bays which will be often referred to, and their outlets, and point out the shoals, reefs, and quicksands, upon, or in which the mariner is liable to strike or to be engulfed. The geography of the continent, where the sufferers for a time located in a miserable captivity, will moreover be attended to.

In pursuing the detail, it will be our pleasing task to notice the chivalrous conduct of a British officer, and the brave men under his command, who, at the risk of their lives, volunteered their services to rescue a suffering lady from a horrible captivity, as well as her companions in misfortune.

It will be with pleasure that we shall detail the kind and hospitable attentions of Stephen Owen, Esq., the British Commissary at Moreton Bay, as well as his lady, and many of the principal inhabitants, not only to Mrs. Fraser, but also to those who had been under the command of her husband.

Before we commence our interesting narrative, we cannot refrain from indulging the hope that the perusal will act as a stimulus to Missionary exertions; and that the various societies who have been long engaged in sending persons to preach the gospel to those who “*sit in darkness and in the shadow of death;*” we trust that a holy emulation will arise among them, who shall be the first to send a missionary to the shore where the natives inflicted these unheard-of tortures.

The conduct of the gallant Lieutenant, we hope will act as a stimulus. If he, at the risk of his life, would venture to rescue four or five of his fellow-creatures from suffering, how much more important is it that the Christian soldier should leave all that is dear to him, and attempt to enlighten the minds of, and deliver from everlasting suffering the sons and daughters of ignorance and cruelty!

SHIPWRECK
OF THE
STIRLING CASTLE, &c.

CHAPTER I.

“ Adieu, ye pleasures of the rural scene,
Where peace and calm contentment dwell serene !
To me in vain, on earth’s prolific soil,
With summer crown’d, the Elysium valleys smile.
To me these happier scenes no joy impart,
But tantalize with hope my aching heart.
For these, alas ! reluctant I forego,
To visit storms and elements of woe.”

FALCONER.

ON Thursday, the 22nd of October, 1835, the brig Stirling Castle, of 500 tons burden, cleared St. Katharine’s Docks, preparatory to her voyage to Hobart Town, to which port she was destined, with a general cargo of hard and soft goods, together with 900 barrels of Hodgson’s pale ale.

When going down the river, near the Isle of Dogs, a brig ran foul of the vessel, and carried away her larboard cat-head, so that the captain

was obliged to lay to and anchor off Greenwich, where she remained for three days, to have the damage repaired.

Whether this early disaster was an omen of the melancholy catastrophe which awaited the Stirling Castle, we will not opine; but it is a well-known fact, that when an accident happens to an outward bound vessel on the day of leaving port, it is regarded by many brave seamen, (who by the bye are not the least superstitious of mankind,) as a certain foreboding of a perilous voyage.

At this time the following persons were on board, viz.

James Fraser, Captain,

Eliza Fraser, his wife.

Charles Brown, Chief Officer,

Henry Greaves, Second Officer,

John Baxter, Boatswain,

John Lawton, Carpenter,

William Riley, Ship's Cook,

Henry D'suser, Steward,

James Major,

James Kerr,

Michael Denny,

Richard Payne,

Edward Stone,

William Elliott,

John Fraser, the captain's nephew,

James Jirard,

Robert Drew,

} Seamen

} Boys.

Mrs. Fraser, the captain's wife, came up from Scotland purposely to accompany her husband, who was in a declining state of health; and her subsequent dreadful sufferings, both mental and physical, will be noticed in their proper place as we proceed with our extraordinary narrative.

There were also on board a number of passengers, bound for New South Wales, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Short and five children, Mr. Davis and Mr. Williams, with their children and domestics.

The damage which the vessel had sustained having been thoroughly repaired, the captain weighed anchor on the 26th of October, and proceeded down the river, every one on board excepting himself being in excellent health. The crew were joyous; but the sombre hue of anxiety and regret for a time overshadowed the countenances of the passengers as their native soil receded from their view, and who were migrating from the land of their birth and all they held dear in it, with "*their wives and their little ones, to sojourn in a strange land.*"

This was natural; but after a few days their minds appeared (so say the narrators) to veer from the region of regret to that of speculative anticipation. Numerous were their inquiries of Captain Fraser, who had made several voyages to the antipodial colony to which they were bound, and they were responded to with that urbanity which is the

characteristic feature in an intelligent British sailor, and thus the tedium of the voyage was, in a great degree, neutralized.

After a pleasant voyage of five months, the *Stirling Castle* arrived at Hobart Town on the 22nd March, 1836, when every person on board was in perfect health excepting the captain; and owing, perhaps, to the kind attentions of an affectionate wife, his health appeared to have rallied, and his spirits were more buoyant than when he left the port of London. After remaining some days at Hobart Town,* and discharging part of the

* *Hobart Town*, or *Austral-Asia*, as it has been called, (hence the word *Australia*,) is the seat of government at Van Dieman's Land. It is regularly laid out, well-built, and is seated on a cove on the river Derwent, about 20 miles from its embouchure, or sea entrance; lat. $43^{\circ} 5' S.$ ($42^{\circ} 54' S.$) long. $147^{\circ} 25' E.$ ($146^{\circ} 28' E.$) The population is considerably above 10,000. The bay, or cove, is capable of floating any number of vessels, affords good anchorage, and is secure from every wind. The town occupies more than a square mile, stands on an agreeable eminence, and possesses several broad and handsome avenues, which intersect each other at right angles. A rivulet passes through the town, but the houses are supplied with fresh water from the works established for that purpose. The public buildings of this infant, but rapidly improving settlement, include a spacious and well-finished church, the government-house, a large irregular pile of buildings, military and prisoners' barracks, colonial hospital, gaol, police office, female house of correction or factory, male and female orphan schools, treasury and commissariat stores, ordnance stores,



THE TOWN OF
DUNDEE
AS APPEARING FROM
THE SEA
IN THE YEAR
1840
BY
W. & A. G. LEITCH
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DUNDEE

1890

cargo, it became necessary for him to proceed to Sydney, in order, if possible, to find a market for the remaining part of his merchandise. Here he continued for a considerable time, and, by the geniality of the climate, and resorting to medical aid, the health of Capt. Fraser appeared to improve very fast, but the circumstance about to be stated, was but little calculated to promote equanimity in the mind of the invalid. It may be proper to remark that the voyage was a very short one when the tonnage of the vessel is considered; and that which was a matter of rejoicing to the passengers became a source of discontent to the crew, the major part of whom deserted the ship,

and numerous public offices. Here are also Wesleyan and Roman Catholic chapels, a Scotch kirk, and an Independent meeting-house. The banks are handsome buildings, but they have recently been outrivalled by the erection of several private dwellings. Several excellent ones are established here, a book society, and schools for the poor, and there are various factories, breweries, distilleries, &c. The commerce of this improving place is considerable, and the approach of large vessels to the town, is encouraged by the erection of a wharf, or extensive jetty, at which the largest class of merchantmen may land and discharge with safety. The administration of justice is by a supreme court, which sits four times during each year, for both civil and criminal causes. Courts of quarter sessions and requests are also held, and a chief justice and other law-officers of the crown constantly reside here. The whole colony is under the control of a lieut.-governor, who also makes Hobart Town his chief place of residence.

and Captain Fraser was under the necessity of engaging fresh hands, there only remaining of his original complement, Brown, the chief officer; Baxter, the boatswain, who was now appointed the second mate; Stone, who succeeded him as boatswain; and Fraser, the captain's nephew.

This circumstance appeared to prey much on the mind of the captain, who, being a nautical man from his youth, was aware how difficult it was to control men under his command, of whose persons, habits and character, he had but at best a very slight acquaintance. There was another circumstance which perhaps weighed yet heavier than any other consideration he knew, (whether his new crew knew it or not,) that only four years previous, he had lost "*The Comet*," on a reef, in the course he was then about to steer. Although a bold and enterprising man, he appeared by his unusual taciturnity to have forebodings, and he perhaps thought, that he had passed the Rubicon alluded to by an immortal poet,

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."

The new hands engaged at the colony were Joseph Corralis, steward; J. Allen, cook (both men of colour); Jacob Schofield, carpenter; Robert Darge, Henry Youlden, Robert Hodge, Robert Hanham, James Major, W. Elliot and John Copeland, seamen; Robert Carey and John Wilson, boys—making twenty persons altogether.

CHAPTER II.

“ Our bark 'tis true, no shelter here can find,
Here, shattered by the ruffian seas and wind ;
Yet with what hope of refuge can we flee,
Chased by this tempest and outrageous sea ?
Nor while its violence the tempest keeps,
Bereft of every sail, we rove the deeps ;
At random driven, to present death we haste,
And one short hour perhaps may be our last.”

FALCONER'S SHIPWRECK.

CIRCUMSTANCES which had not been calculated upon, rendered it advisable that the Stirling Castle should proceed from Sydney to Singapore in ballast, and the anchor was weighed, and she dropped down to “Pinchgut Island,” in like manner as outward vessels from London pass the pool, and cast anchor off Greenwich or Woolwich.* The vessel left the port about 1½ P. M. on the

* Sydney, the capital of New South Wales, is situated nearly equidistant from the extreme northern and southern extremities of the county of Cumberland ; it is built partly in a narrow ravine or valley, and partly on the sides of a gentle slope, extending upwards from the shore of one of the coves of Port Jackson, and called Sydney Cove, on the first founding of

15th of May, and steering in a direction so as to clear the land, she passed Sydney Head in less than three hours, the wind at the time being due south, and the weather thick and foggy, but a breeze sprang up, which continued steady until the 20th, when about half-past two P.M.

the colony. The streets are long, the houses generally lofty and well-constructed, interspersed with cottages fronted by small neat gardens. Along the water-side, (except that portion occupied by the demesne of government house) there are wharfs, ship-yards, stores, mills, steam-engines, &c. ; behind these the houses rise in successive terraces, giving variety to the scene, and conveying, by their neatness and elegance, the idea of a prosperous community. The hotels and inns are numerous and excellent. The public buildings, however, at present are not so ; they consist of the government house, the hospital, the barracks, St. James's episcopal church, St. Philip's church, the Roman Catholic chapel, the Scotch kirk, and the Wesleyan Methodist chapel.

The situation of Sydney adapts it for the capital of a commercial empire. Port Jackson is one of the finest harbours in the world, its entrance being seven miles above Sydney, up Paramatta river. Ships can come up close to the wharfs and stores at Sydney, and cargoes are hoisted from their holds into the ware-rooms. The total number of vessels belonging to Sydney is 94, with a tonnage of 13,890 tons ; the number engaged in the whaleing being 40, and the tonnage 9,655. This shipping is the growth of only a few years.

The country from Sydney northward to Moreton Bay, except in the parts immediately attached to the principal settlements, has been very imperfectly explored ; the chief attempts already made have been employed in the examination of the rivers,

the wind began to press from the southward, and at this time they calculated that they were about 250 miles from Torres Straits.

Towards midnight of the 21st, the wind veered to S.E. when they trimmed sails, and set the lower

which are very numerous, though not large, and several are not navigable. Paramatta river may almost be considered as a continuation of Port Jackson, rather than a river. The distance between Sydney and Paramatta is about 18 miles, and the navigation in two places rather shallow. A steam-boat communication is now established between the capital and the second town in the colony.

The Hawkesbury, which is a communication of the Napean river, after the junction of the latter with a considerable stream called the Grose, issues from a remarkable cleft in the Blue mountains, in the vicinity of the beautiful town of Richmond, about 40 miles from Sydney. Hunter's river, about 70 miles from Port Jackson, disembogues into the sea of the harbour at Newcastle, which is safe, and sufficiently capacious for vessels of 300 tons burden. Brisbane river, which disembogues into *Moreton Bay*, was only discovered in 1823. Its source is the mountain-range of the north, (the principal branch is in $26^{\circ} 52'$ N. lat.) but it receives several tributary streams in its course. Darling river is supposed to be formed by the junction of numerous streams in the interior, to the westward of Moreton Bay. It was discovered by Capt. Sturt, in 1829, and traced for 40 miles through a level country to the S.W. as far as lat. $30^{\circ} 16'$ S., long. $144^{\circ} 50'$ E. the breadth being about 60 yards, and its boundary banks 30 or 40 feet in height. By the observation of Major Mitchell, who in 1835, surveyed this river for 300 miles, as far as lat. $32^{\circ} 24'$ S. and long. $142^{\circ} 24'$ E., it appears to fall into the river Murray, a broad and noble stream, only a short time previously examined by Capt. Sturt.

and topmast studding-sails, and sailed before the wind several hours in that direction toward N. W. The next day, (the 22nd) at noon, they took observation, when they discovered that they were in latitude $21^{\circ} 5' S.$ and $155^{\circ} E.$ long., and at this time by their reckoning, they were 50 miles eastwardly from Eliza Reef, which like many in this quarter, are composed of coral, and their edges rising near the surface at low water, render navigation extremely dangerous. Little did they think at the time these calculations were made, that that fatal spot would prove to them the prelude to peril, danger, and death!* This dangerous shoal is described by Baxter, as being nearer Torres Straits than Cumberland Island. Previous to the nautical observation being made, Capt. Fraser had tried the current on the two previous days, when he found that it ran five knots hourly, in a S. E. direction. After going at this rate for nine hours, or thereabouts, the vessel ran

* Reference will be made to this dangerous shoal in a subsequent part of the work, but the compiler considers it necessary to state *en passant*, that it is in contiguity with Cumberland Island, and further on towards Torres Straits; but unfortunately its exact position is not laid down in the charts. There is no doubt but government will cause another survey to be made, for the *Stirling Castle* is not the only vessel which has been wrecked in this quarter, as in August 1834, the *Charles Eaton* bark, sailing from Sydney to India, was dashed to pieces on this fatal shoal. This catastrophe will be noticed hereafter.

upon Eliza Reef, and at this time the current was running at the rate of at least six knots an hour.

Down to this fatal hour, the captain and his crew were on terms of amity; and although his vessel for the most part was manned by new hands, nothing had occurred to excite discontent in the minds of either party; but as in most instances of the disastrous and melancholy nature like that which we are about to describe, when dangers assail, the distinction partially vanishes, and "self-preservation" predominates in the minds of the crew, so that every one is ready to cast distinction overboard, and consider himself upon an equality with his companions.

No sooner had the ill-fated vessel struck on the reef, than a general consternation arose; it is due however, to the crew to state that they used every effort to get her off.*

Immediately that the vessel came in contact with the reef, she came round on her heel, with her side to the sea. By the direction of the captain (who at this time was very ill,) the crew promptly pointed the yards to the wind, thinking to get her close hauled, and upon the wind, hoping that by this effort they should clear the shoal, but it only

* Capt. Green, of the *Mediterranean Packet*, informs us that by the breakers, observable at ebb tide, the reef forms a semi-circle, and something in shape like the moon three days after its change.

turned the vessel on her broadside. The tide was running at this time, (in the evening,) at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots an hour, in consequence of which, it was soon ascertained, that by the force of the current and her own pressure, the keel of the vessel was damaged, and she became a complete fixture on the reef; and such was her agitation in consequence of the rapid rate at which the sea flowed, that the crew were thrown off their feet. Divers manœuvres were resorted to, but after repeated efforts, and several hours' toil, they had the mortification to find, that they had "*laboured in vain, and spent their strength for nought,*" and their danger was enhanced, by the vessel having taken in a great deal of water, several of her planks having started. Exhausted as the crew now were, by long and incessant labour, they applied their remaining energies to the pumps, having discovered to their consternation, that the hold was half full of water, and the sea at this awful juncture, making continual breaches over the vessel; or, to use the phrase of Mr. Baxter, "*the sea made a fair breach over us, and carried away every thing off the deck that was moveable.*" At this period it was reckoned that they were 150 miles from land, and having no hope of human assistance, their "*hearts fainted within them, and they were sore afraid.*"

Finding the vessel labouring in this dreadful manner, it was deemed advisable to cut away the

starboard lanyards from the main rigging, in order to ease her, and this was done with the sanction of Captain Fraser, who notwithstanding the ill state of his health, manifested great coolness and intrepidity, and cheered his crew to continue their exertions, by expressing a hope of a speedy deliverance. When this expedient was resorted to, the Stirling Castle lay on her larboard beam-ends, and soon afterwards a violent surge carried the main-mast over the larboard quarter; and with it, bore down the fore-top-mast, the gallant-mast, the royal-mast, jib, and flying jib-booms; and as if determined to complete the work of destruction, by one fell swoop, it severed the fore-mast down to its "hounds." After they had cut away the remaining part of the mast, the vessel righted about for a time, as her aft was lightened, and her main boom destroyed; but the sea soon struck her again with such violence, that she was once more sent upon her heel. Such indeed was the force of the sea, that the man at the wheel was knocked down by the concussion, and obliged to let go; and it was found, that after she was thus struck, she refused to answer her helm. The vessel now became completely water-logged, and danced upon the sea "like an egg-shell."

During this long struggle with the elements, no life was lost, but some of the men were severely bruised and contused, and one or two suffered

severely. Alas ! this dreadful calamity was only the harbinger of more acute sufferings.

It now became obvious, that all hope of saving the vessel could be no longer indulged, and the persons on board naturally evinced a desire for the salvation of their lives, from the yawning gulf, which opened its insatiate jaws, as if ready to swallow them. The only alternative that suggested itself, was to resort to the boats; but so violent was the raging of the sea, that they found at that time it was impossible to launch them; and in this awful moment of anxiety and suspense, that alarm was augmented, by a violent sea driving in the stern of the ship's scuttle, about eighteen or nineteen feet from the water; this was about an hour after midnight.

Let us digress for a moment, and from this faint outline, imagine twenty of our fellow-creatures on board a vessel which was rendered alike crazy and unmanageable by the fury of the element upon which it yet floated, or perhaps we might say, on the surface of which she had foundered. The only music to beguile the hours of nocturnal darkness, was not the "music of spheres," alluded to in Arcadian song, but the rushing of the mighty breakers, which was only softened by the hissing of the foaming surge which surrounded them, and the hollow moaning of the distant ocean ! The solemnity and terrors of that awful night, were

heightened in a great degree by peals of thunder and flashes of vivid lightning, such as have never been heard or beheld in our latitude; the elements above seemed to have confederated together with those beneath, to strike alarm and dismay into the minds of the benighted and shipwrecked captain and his desponding and exhausted crew; and were imagination to be expended to its utmost bounds, it could form no adequate idea what must have been the sensations of one person on board the wreck,—a woman, a doating and affectionate wife, one, who being influenced by conjugal fidelity, and anxiety for the health and welfare of her husband, had left her country, children and friends, to console him in the hour of sickness and exhaustion, from a consciousness, that while performing the duties which the law of connubiality enjoins, she had no reason to dread the terrors of the mighty sea. These hours of horror and dread aroused feelings which perhaps had long remained latent in the minds of some of them; and in imitation of the sailors who were conveying the disobedient prophet to Nineveh, “*they called every man upon his God.*”*

We now resume our narrative. The day began to dawn about four o’clock, and the tempest had

* The steady resignation and piety of a youth, and nephew to the captain, will be noticed hereafter, as also his disastrous exit.

by that time subsided in a great degree; but the elements lowered, and the dissevered and murky clouds gave evident tokens of the fierce contest in which they had been engaged during the night. In vain did the anxious crew look around, over the white foaming sea, in the hope of descrying a sail: they saw no living thing save flocks of sea-gulls, whose shrieks seemed rather to mock, than to pity their disaster.

At this time, no other mode or possibility of escape presented itself, but to have recourse to the boats; but when the work of preparation commenced, they found them both damaged, particularly the long-boat, which had lost her fore-foot and was otherwise injured, and the pinnace had her starboard streak stove in.

They immediately commenced repairing them in the best manner they could, and with any materials upon which they could lay their hands; consisting of lead, leather, pieces of blanket, &c., by which means they patched them up, and after this was done, they parbuckled them over the larboard gangway. At this time it was low water, so that no sooner were the boats over the side of the ship than the long-boat was again stove in, the coral reef having rived and pierced it. The boat was then hauled up, and they again repaired it in the same manner as before. They then proceeded to load them with provisions, and such articles as were thought likely to be most

useful ; and this was done with the utmost expedition, as they found that the wind was freshening, and the water flowing ; they being fully convinced that the vessel could not hold together much longer. Unfortunately the water had already made its way into the hold, so that they could only get at a very scanty supply of provisions. When five of the crew went down into the hold to get water from the casks, they were prevented from accomplishing their object, as they found that four of the planks had been stove in on the larboard side, and the timbers broken. Down to this time all hands on board were safe, and it was thought advisable, in order to avoid a catastrophe, to repair forthwith to the boats.

The party who got into the long-boat were, Captain Fraser and his lady ; Mr. J. Brown, the chief officer ; Joseph Carrallis, the steward ; Jacob Schofield, carpenter ; John Major, Job Allen, Robert Darge, and Michael Denny, seamen ; John Fraser, and Robert Carey, (these were boys, and the first-named nephew to the captain,) making an aggregate of 11 persons.

The following is a list of the principal articles which were saved from the wrecked Stirling Castle, and placed in the long-boat : a clothes-bag, containing 50 lbs. of bread ; three pieces of salt beef, of about 5 lbs. each ; about 20 lbs. of pork ; 3 gallons of brandy ; a small jar of butter ; half a jar of tripe ; 10 jars of preserves and fruit ; part of an

18-gallon cask of ale ; some clothes belonging to the captain, and 3 boxes of apparel, principally belonging to his wife ; Captain Fraser's writing-desk ; 2 sextants ; 2 quadrants ; 2 chronometers ; 1 telescope ; 2 compasses ; part of a chart ; 2 muskets ; 1 fowling piece, a brace of pistols, a ship's axe, and several articles too trifling to particularize.

The following of the crew went on board the pinnace, viz. : John Baxter, second officer ; Edward Stone, boatswain ; Richard Hodge, Robert Hanham,* Henry Youlden, W. Elliott, seamen ; and J. Wilson, a boy.

* There being three of the crew named Robert, who by way of distinction on board, were called " Big-Bob" (Darge), " Middle-Bob" (Hanham), and " Little-Bob" (Carey) ; they will be referred to by those designations when we give Mrs. Fraser's narrative.

The following summary statement will show at one view the various fates of these unhappy persons :—

Speared.—Captain Fraser.

Edward Stone, boatswain.

Jacob Schofield, carpenter.

Burned.—Mr. Brown, chief officer.

Michael Denny, seaman.

Drowned.—Michael Doyle, seaman.

John Fraser, boy.

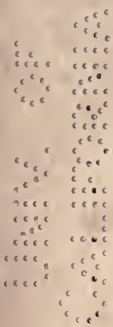
John Wilson, boy.

W. Elliott, seaman.

Saved.—Mrs. Fraser.

John Baxter, second officer.

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John Baxter

Second Officer of the *Whiting* 1845

It was deemed expedient for each boat to make its own way out of the surf, as it was found impossible to hoist any canvas, so as to command either.* After they had accomplished this task of peril, they approached each other, and the pinnace being the stronger vessel of the two, took the long-boat in tow, which contained all the little provision they had saved: and as she was half full of water, and almost in a sinking state, humanity and policy combined to show the necessity of keeping both the boats together, in case of an accident occurring to either of them.

— Having at length arranged this, and the long-boat being properly in tow, Baxter, who had the command of the pinnace, steered S. W. or from that to W. S. W., being the direct course for the land; and he was able to make his observations and calculations with more certainty, as he had had the good fortune to preserve his quadrant.

Saved.—W. Corallis, steward.

Robert Darge, seaman.

Robert Carey, boy.

Robert Hodge, seaman.

Henry Youlden, ditto.

Robert Hanham, ditto.

Starved.—John Copeland, ditto.

Jacob Allen, cook.

* It may be proper to notice that the helpless party left the Stirling Castle on Sunday, May 22, 1836, between 4 and 5 o'clock P. M.

At times, he was obliged to go before the wind, and after falling in with a number of reefs, (chiefly coral,) the fragile barks reached Cumberland Island,* on the fifth day after their leaving the ship to her unhappy destiny, being Friday, May 27th. It is worthy of observation, that during this dangerous voyage, the crew of the pinnace were obliged to exchange with that of the long-boat alternately, in order to assist in baling out the water, as but for this arrangement the latter must have sunk.†

During the five days' voyage, they were driven

* Cumberland Island owes its name to Capt. Cook, who so designated it in the year 1770. It is one of a group of islands lying near the N. E. coast, considerably north of the territory of New South Wales, and forms a passage to what was called by the immortal circumnavigator, Whit-Sunday passage, lat. 20° 10' S., long. 149° 10' E.

† About three days after they had left the rock, the weather became cloudy; and owing to the wind freshening, and ultimately becoming boisterous, the long-boat began to work upon her seams, which had recently been repaired with a mixture of soap, &c. as already described, and they began to open again. The balers at first took alternate turns for two hours, but it became necessary that they should be relieved more frequently. They reduced the time to half an hour; and finding their strength quite inadequate to this task, they at length laded 20 buckets each, in rotation, at "a spell." At last they became so weak that they could not hoist a bucket of water to the boat's side, and two hands were forced to be engaged for that purpose, the top man being lashed to the boat to keep him from falling.

upon several reefs, so that occasionally the men were obliged to get out of the boats to lift them over, by which their feet suffered severely from the coral and flints, which cut like knives. They landed on a fine sandy beach, at Cumberland Island. Being greatly fatigued from the want of sleep and other causes, a consultation was held as to what should be done, when it was agreed on all hands that they should forthwith partake of some of the provisions which they had preserved from the wreck.

A new difficulty now presented itself—how were they to kindle a fire? One of the party obtained two pieces of the clothing of a tree called “iron bark,” and by rubbing them together, they soon ignited, and a large fire was made, and the cook set to work to broil half a piece of pork, (about four lbs.) which was to be equally divided among the whole number, consisting at this time of twenty persons; it was also settled that a handful of biscuit should serve two persons. While the dinner was cooking, a party of the strongest went to seek for water in the crevices and clefts of the rocks, no one having tasted of that salutary beverage for four or five days, and they were fortunate enough to procure about three gallons, which was a matter of great rejoicing to them all. After having partaken of their scanty repast, they proceeded to get the things out of the boats, and

then commenced to erect a tent, with the boat-sails, for the accommodation of Capt. and Mrs. Fraser, and Mr. Brown, the chief officer. That being done, it was agreed to make a large fire, and set a watch, lest the wild beasts or other enemy should approach them. At this time they were not aware that the island was uninhabited; and lest they might be assailed suddenly by the natives, it was thought advisable to keep the boats afloat, so that they might instantly repair to them on an alarm being given.

At break of day, on Friday morning, the 27th, after a restless night, they arose from the beach, and proceeded to haul the boats upon it, in order to repair them in the best manner they were able, but the great difficulty which presented itself, was a lack of tools. In this dilemma, they verified the truth of the proverb that "necessity is the mother of invention," they took a quantity of soap, grease, &c. &c. which they mixed with sea-sand, and thereby made a strong adhesive kind of putty, with which they caulked and filled up the seams in the boats, and found it to be a good substitute for pitch and oakum. During this day, by a small ration allotted to each, they consumed the other piece of pork, and the stock was exhausted; but the health of the crew was much recruited, and it was agreed on all hands that they should strike the tent, and take to the boat on the follow-

ing morning, their great desire being to reach Moreton Bay as soon as possible.

On the morning of the 29th, about 10 A. M., they embarked on board their newly repaired craft, and left Cumberland Island without having experienced any new disaster. Before they had proceeded any way on their voyage, (the pinnace towing the long-boat as before,) the main land appeared in sight, which they believed to be Repulse Bay, and at the distance, as near as they could calculate, of 90 miles from the island they had just left; and from the cavities of whose rocks they collected a quantity of water, for their future sustenance.

It was their fixed intention to make for the main land, where they hoped to meet with some missionaries or other persons who would succour them in their forlorn condition. Unfortunately for them, this hope, like many others, proved to be futile, for the wind changed suddenly to the northward, and they were obliged to keep before it, and thereby went in a contrary direction to the wished-for haven, and driven at times into the main sea, with rickety boats and a meagre stock of provisions.

In this state of trial and privation, they were beaten about at the mercy of the waves for 28 days, viz. from the 29th of May to the 26th of June, without being able to make any land, and the only sustenance they were able to procure, were

a few rock oysters and other shell-fish, and a little fresh water from the cavities of the small islands which they came across, when the wind and weather would permit; and these, when obtained, were considered as great luxuries, but that could not be done at the time of high water. Among the few articles of provision saved from the wreck, was a small remnant of an eighteen-gallon cask of ale, and this was doled out in small portions daily in a tea-cup, as long as it lasted. Of this great luxury, every one had an equal share, and so indeed, had they of every thing; they all, for the time being, considered themselves in these respects, on an equality.

After the ale was exhausted, such was the faintness and thirst of the unfortunate party that they shared out the hops and grounds remaining at the bottom of the barrel, which they chewed, in order to create moisture; and when they could get no further supply, they substituted small pieces of lead for the same purpose. When rain fell, they spread out their jackets and other articles of apparel in order to catch every drop, and when saturated they wrung them in a vessel for common stock. Baxter and Mrs. Fraser were the only two persons on board who could drink salt water, which purged them very much, and proved only a momentary relief, and the frequent repetition of it brought on delirium. Some of the men were so exhausted that they lay down in the boat

with their tongues out of their mouths, and when the rain fell they sucked the moisture from their clothes; but owing to the dashing of the spray against the boats they could not obtain it in the pure state in which it fell from the clouds. In some parts of the coast of the main land there were rivulets, but they were so narrow and shallow that the long-boat could not proceed up them, but the pinnace entered them, in quest of water, fruit, berries, or any thing they could get, but their enterprizing search was crowned with but little success. Up to this period, by using their instruments, the captain and Baxter were enabled to keep a reckoning.*

Stone, (the boatswain,) who was next in command in the pinnace to Baxter, succeeded him; and being in charge, he took the opportunity one night, under pretence of going in search of water, to part company with the long-boat, which he knew to be in a sinking state, having now twelve persons on board, including the captain and his wife. It appeared, subsequently, that the intention of him and his party was to reach the settlement if possible, in order that relief might be afforded to

* It has been stated, that when they started from Cumberland Island, Baxter had charge of the pinnace; but on the fourteenth day after they put to sea he became so ill from fatigue that he was obliged to give up his command and go to the long-boat, which was used as a kind of hospital.

the distressed party they had left behind, with no other prospect before them but starvation or drowning. Stone, having neither chronometer, quadrant, compass, nor any other instrument, could steer only by the land, so that they were ultimately carried within 120 miles of McLeay river, where they fell in with a tribe of savages, as appeared from a statement subsequently made by Hodge, who was one of the crew belonging to the pinnace.

The narrators afterwards fell in with Hodge, who was the only person saved connected with the pinnace, and he gave the following melancholy and horrible account of the end of his six companions.

The lad Fraser, the captain's nephew, was drowned when seeking for shell fish on the rocks ; he also stated that the boy Wilson was drowned, but where and under what circumstances he did not detail.

As soon as they were captured by the natives, they demanded the clothes worn by the crew, each of whom had one suit over another. Stone, the boatswain, resolutely refused to satisfy their demands, and he was instantly speared before his companions, and laid dead on the beach. Schofield, the carpenter, suffered the same fate, in consequence of the resistance which he made to the natives. Allen, the black cook, stripped himself and voluntarily gave up his apparel, and persuaded Hodge to do the same, as from what he knew of

the ferocious habits of the savages, they would be massacred in like manner with the boatswain and carpenter. Hodge yielded to this advice, and they were treated with comparative kindness, but marched into the bush, where they were employed in gathering wood, fetching water, and other drudgery. At length the hard labour and scanty fare to which Allen, the cook, and Copeland were subjected, rendered them unable to move, and the savages abandoned them to their fate, and left them to die from starvation, and Major was burnt.

Hodge, it would seem from the statement he made, remained with the savages a considerable time, but fortunately in the end emancipated himself and joined some of his late companions, to whom he imparted the sorrowful tidings above narrated, and who might very appropriately have used the words uttered by Job's messenger—“*And I only have escaped to tell thee.*”

Having shown the awful end of the crew of the pinnace (save one), we return again to the long-boat and its unfortunate inmates.

During the night they consoled themselves with the hope that the pinnace would arrive with a supply of water and some other necessaries, but in this they were awfully disappointed. When morning dawned, they could not discover their consort-boat, which greatly alarmed them, and after several hours had elapsed, and not seeing her heave in sight, the party were distressed almost to frenzy,

owing to the raging thirst which prevailed amongst them. The captain being aware that savages were on that part of the coast toward which the pinnace had steered, naturally concluded that the crew were taken captive and perhaps slain. At this time the long-boat was only jury-rigged, and in a very dangerous condition, and one of the party was obliged to sit at times with a boat's oar, and substitute it for a rudder. The unfortunate crew being reduced to the last extremity and suffering from thirst, hunger and cold, were driven to and fro at the caprice of the wind and water for fourteen days after the pinnace left them, and for the last seven entirely destitute of the smallest portion of food or the least drop of fresh water; and their exhaustion had become so great that they could with great difficulty bale the water from the boat to keep it from sinking.*

* The three last days that they were on the water the condition of these unfortunate people was beyond description horrible, and it was rendered more so from the thunder, lightning and rain being incessant and without intermission, so that there was not a place in the boat in which they could lie down. At times it was so dark that they could not see their raised hand, and anon the lightning glared with such vividity that they could not only see every thing in the boat, but over the ocean to a great distance.

“The lightnings raged around their heads,
And thunders clave the trembling sea!”

On the third morning of this dreadful tempest the wind ceased,

Despair and dismay sat upon every countenance, and they solemnly deliberated as to what should be done; and the only alternatives were either to draw lots as to who should be sacrificed to supply food for the rest, or beach the boat, and all rush into eternity by one fell swoop! What an awful dilemma—our blood chills at the bare consideration of such unmitigated suffering.

Such was the agony of mind which the captain at this time endured that he became frenzied, and bit his tongue, in consequence of thirst, disappointment and fatigue. At one time fears were entertained that he would be bereft of reason, but they were soon dissipated by his recovering his wonted equanimity of mind. This gentleman was naturally a person of bold enterprize and patient endurance, but he had for some time been labouring under a painful bilious affection, which was now greatly increased by anxiety. Perhaps the reminiscence of the disastrous event to which we have alluded at page 12, had also a tendency to depress his spirits, as we understand he often made allusion to it.

During the last seven days that they were

and left a heavy surf on the beach—indeed it was terrific to behold.

The question which had been previously mooted a few days before was again agitated, as to what steps they should pursue.

without food, two large sharks followed the long-boat, which some of the crew looked upon as an omen that one or other of them would “slip their wind;” it being the superstitious opinion of many sailors, that when these voracious fish continue for any length of time in the contiguity of a vessel, it is a certain precursor of a speedy death, or at least portentous of an impending storm. In the latter respect, the conjecture proved a correct one; and melancholy to relate, the former was literally verified, but it was on a continent, and not on the sea.

At length it was resolved that they should launch the boat when the first opportunity presented itself, and that very shortly occurred. The method they resorted to to effect this, was to keep her on a level keel, and watching for her touching the ground with her fore-foot, and when this occurred all hands jumped out and dragged her up, and when struck by the next sea, some of the men bearing the head-rope, in order to be ready to make her fast.

The next object was to lighten her forward, in order to get her yet higher on the beach, and thereby preserve her from further danger. Having accomplished this herculean task, the first thing they did was to take Mrs. Fraser from the boat and carry her to a place of safety, to which the fatigued captain had already repaired; and we think we behold him on *terra firma*, partly in the attitude of adoration, and partly of grateful exultation, and

hearing him exclaim at the height of his enfeebled voice, as they bore along the precious and almost inanimate burden, " Brave fellows! they have accomplished their object; they are conducting hither the being who of all others can render me happy on a land where I am a stranger and alien."

The articles which the boat contained, having been landed on the beach, the helpless crew found themselves on a strange shore; and as the sequel will show, it proved to be a prelude to suffering and death, and the porch which led to eternity!

Having thus escaped the perils of the deep, Captain Fraser was anxious to erect an Ebenezer to God, and exclaim, "*Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.*" Baxter having preserved his Bible and other religious books from the wreck, the captain read an appropriate chapter, and called upon his people to join him in the work of praise and thanksgiving; and most of them obeyed his call;

" For sailors, though they have their jokes,
They feel and think like other folks,"

in the hour of difficulty and danger; and, volatile as they naturally are, there are seasons when their hearts overflow with gratitude for the mercies of Him who rescues from peril and death. In conclusion, a hymn suitable to the occasion was sung by the party; and perhaps this was the first time the rocks of Australia ever echoed the sounds of praise for preservation and redemption.

CHAPTER III.

“Breakers dead, a-head, breakers on the lee-bow.”

“Heaven shield the mariner on his path of storms :

Where the breakers white

Fling o'er the night

A thousand dreadful forms ;

When the stars are wrapp'd in gloom,

And ev'ry wave comes like a doom,

Heaven shield the mariner—

Heav'n shield the mariner on his path of storms.”

FITZ BALL.

“For while the vessel through unnumbered chinks,

Above, below, th' invading water drinks,

Sounding her depth, they eyed the wetted scalē,

And lo! the leaks o'er all their powers prevail ;

Yet in their post by terrors unsubdued,

They with redoubled force their task pursued.”

FALCONER'S SHIPWRECK.

SCARCELY had the long-boat been beached, than the exhausted party beheld four or five natives watching their movements from the heights above the beach, and before they had cleared her, they disappeared ; but as they were hailed by several of the crew who quitted the boat as soon as possible, they again made their appearance. The distressed

and hungry crew appeared at this time to be more intent upon food and water, than a tent, fire or sleep. The natives made a signal by friendly gestures, and held up something, which upon a nearer approach turned out to be a piece of a kangaroo, which they laid on the ground, as they refused to take any thing from, or give any thing into their hands; but they did not appear to be scrupulous in this respect, on the ground of apprehension of contagion by a close contact, for no sooner than the hungry mortals had picked up the half putrid carcase of the quadruped, than the natives considered a bargain was struck, and they *sans ceremonie*, rushed upon them, and seized their caps, comforters, and other articles from their persons, more by the way of reprisal, than in the regular mode of barter. While one party was catering for provisions, the others were busily employed in fixing a tent for Captain Fraser, his wife, and the chief officer; the long-boat main-sail being used as the awning or canopy. Dreary as was their prospect, the unhappy trio returned praise and thanksgiving to that Almighty Being, who

“Plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.”

and without indulging forebodings as to the future, they reverted to the past, and exclaimed, “*Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.*”

After the purveyors had returned with the “dainty morsel” to the newly erected tent, a fire was kindled, and the repast, although slight, was a welcome one; and doubtless, after so long an abstinence, its scantiness was, in a physical point of view, beneficial: a peculiar zest was given to their meal by a providential supply of fresh water from the adjacent rocks; thus was literally exemplified the truth of His figurative promise upon whom we should ever rely:—“*When the poor and the needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth them for thirst; I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.*”—Isaiah xli. 17, 18.

The repast being over, and the aspiration of gratitude having ascended to heaven, the company (for so we will now term them) saw a great number of the natives, armed with spears and clubs, making signals at a short distance, which was supposed to denote a desire for them to go into the bush. The captain held a council, when it was decided that they had better keep together; for as the savages were numerous, and armed with spears, clubs, and other dangerous missiles, mischief might befall the adventurers, and the strength of the party thereby diminished. In order to

dissuade those who were ripe for the enterprize, Captain Fraser, whose previous voyages in this part of the globe had made him in some degree acquainted with the habits and manners of the natives, pointed out the dangers to which they were liable, and holding out a hope, that after they had recruited their strength by a few days' rest, they might escape unobserved during a midnight revel of the natives, called a "Corrobery," which is a merry-making, and consists of dancing in a circle round a favourite friend, but more frequently perhaps round a miserable captive, whose flesh they would presently greedily devour.

During the time they were deliberating, the natives withdrew, and returned in smaller numbers, and laying down their spears, shouted "Coohee," which was supposed at the time to be a friendly salutation, but it was afterwards discovered to be a term of rejoicing, as it was vociferated at all times, when they captured a white man, or even killed a kangaroo.

Some of the party, appalled at the recital of the captain, proposed to start forthwith, and proceed along the beach; but the majority were for waiting and attempting to repair the long-boat, to enable it to convey them to Moreton Bay, a British settlement not more than 120 miles distant, whereas a journey coastwise on the beach, would be nearly 400 miles. In this instance the decision of the

majority was deemed law, the vote being something as though given "by ballot."*

Three or four days elapsed before the men had regained sufficient strength to pull the long-boat over on the beach, in order to ascertain what damage she had sustained during her perilous voyage, and by eating voraciously of bread fruit on their first landing, their debility was prolonged by an attack of the flux.† They also gathered a

* Those who have read the histories of shipwrecks, are aware probably, that the best feelings of human nature are extinguished, or at all events so much paralysed, when danger is an assailant, and starvation a visitant, that even among seamen the bond of fraternity is broken, yea even mothers in some instances have "*forgotten their sucking child*," in an anxiety to save a box of paltry trinkets; and the connubial tie has appeared dissolved as if by magic. This was not the case, however, in the instance of Captain Fraser, of the ill-fated *Stirling Castle*, and his attached consort. This lady, it is acknowledged by all, was unceasing in her attentions to the captain in his hours of sickness; and she often inspired him with hope, when his mind flagged, and his spirits forsook him. To a gentleman so circumstanced, the companionship of an amiable wife must have been a source of comfort; but the cup of delight contained a mixture of sorrow—gloomy cogitations respecting the miseries which might be endured by his wife, should he fall a prey to disease, or by the spear of the savages by whom he was surrounded.

† The species of "bread fruit," here alluded to, appears to be indigenous to the coast of New Holland, but very deficient of that nutritivity and pleasant taste which are peculiar to fruit

berry of the gooseberry species, which, although sweet and refreshing to the taste, proved highly detrimental to health. When describing the tent prepared for Captain and Mrs. Fraser, and Brown the chief-officer, we omitted to state that Baxter and the other men made one common bed on the beach of the jib and mizens of the long-boat, and when they laid down covered themselves with their monkey jackets—a fire being lighted to warm the soles of their feet, in order to promote and regulate the circulation of the blood, a necessary precaution, as the nights were excessively cold, and a heavy dew continually hovering around them, and the rain extinguished the fire several times during the night, to the no small mortification of the centinel on the watch. Morning at length dawned, no particular occurrence having happened during the hours of darkness. It is stated, that owing to cramp and other causes, very few of the unfortunates had been refreshed by

“ Nature’s sweet restorer—balmy sleep.”

On the third day after their arrival at this inhospitable coast, a regular system of barter commenced between the party and the natives, who at first came down about ten in number, which gradually

known by the same name, which grows upon other continents. The narrators describe it as husky, and not more palatable than the stalk of *Scotch kale*. It grows in the shape of a sugar-loaf.

increased rapidly until more than 150 would appear at one time. The principal article which they brought were a fish called mullet, which were extremely delicious. The mode of trading was for the natives to throw a fish, and then the other party to throw some article of clothing by way of payment; the captain and his companions transacted their own business with them, and they were well supplied for a time, being perhaps a better paymaster than his crew were able to be.

Before we progress with his detail, the writer hopes he will be excused appending a copious note relative to the continent, on the margin of which the adventurers had found at this period a temporary location, because it will prevent the frequent necessity of resorting to parenthetical explanation, or annotations on the text.*

* The scene of this terrible transaction lies on the eastern coast of a large island or continent of New Holland, now usually denominated Australia, and at no great distance from the dependencies of the British colony of New South Wales. This immense tract, sometimes called a *fifth quarter* of the globe, is one of those recent geographical discoveries which indicate that whatever may be the age of the planet on which we reside, the civilization of men is but of modern creation, or we must suppose that this great southern land has not long emerged or left dry by the receding waters of the mighty deep. It lies between the parallels of 39° and $10^{\circ} 30'$ S. lat. and the meridians of 112° and $153^{\circ} 40'$ E. long., extending from E. to W. 2977 miles, with a breadth from N. to S. of 2004 miles, a

Thus things continued for a considerable time, the natives supplying fish, and the party paying

superficial area of more than three millions of square miles, being more than three-fourths of the extent of the continent of Europe, and having a coast-line of 8,000 miles.

In shape, it is an irregular oval, or it may be compared to the form of a horse-shoe; and so far as we know, appears bounded for the most part by a ridge of steep mountains of greater or less elevation, which extends around the coast, varying in distance from the shore, and sometimes approaching within thirty miles of the coast, at other times extending back to double and perhaps treble that distance.

The country behind this range is, with the exception of New South Wales territory, a perfect *terra incognita*, and from what has been observed on the S.E. shore, it might be inferred that it is a vast plain; it is more natural, however, to suppose that the country consists of extensive steps or terraces, as in South Africa. The British colonies which have been established in Australia consist chiefly of the old settlement of New South Wales on the E. (first commenced at Botany Bay), the more recent settlements at Swan River and King George's Sound, and a new establishment, not yet matured, called South Australia, on the south. The origin of the new settlement on the eastern shore, called New South Wales, may be traced to the year 1772, when Captain Cook having returned from his recent voyage in the hemisphere, and having given a pleasing description of that part of the coast of New Holland which he had discovered, and named New South Wales, it was resolved to form a penal settlement at Botany Bay, with the following objects:—
1st. To rid the mother country of the yearly increasing number of prisoners which were accumulating in the gaols; 2ndly. To afford a proper place for the safe custody and punishment of criminals, as well as for their ultimate and progressive reformation; and 3rdly. To form a free colony out of the materials

dearly for it, by bartering away articles of clothing, of which, luckily, each person had provided

which the reformed prisoners would supply, in addition to families of free emigrants who might settle in the country from time to time.

On the 6th of December, 1786, orders were issued from the king in council to attempt this settlement, and chiefly for the purpose of disposing of the convicts.

The plan having received the sanction of the legislature, the squadron appointed to carry it into execution began to assemble at the Motherbank, the place of rendezvous. On the 6th of March, 1787, it consisted of the *Sirius* frigate, and ten sail of transports and store ships; the whole under the command of Governor Phillips. On the 13th of May the expedition sailed, having on board 778 convicts, of whom 200 were females; and on the 18th of January, 1788, reached the place of their destination, and anchored at Botany Bay. The governor finding this bay very inconvenient for shipping, and the land in the immediate neighbourhood unsuitable for the colony, went to examine Port Jackson, about three leagues distant.

There he had the satisfaction to discover one of the finest harbours in the world, where 1000 sail of the line might ride in perfect safety, and the country round about very eligible. He therefore pitched upon it as the site of the intended settlement; and the convicts and others being landed, they immediately set to work to clear the ground and build their habitations, &c. &c. After struggling with many difficulties, the establishment has fairly taken root, and increased to a flourishing colony.

The British settlers at first confined themselves along Port Jackson and Hawkesbury river; but in the course of the summer of 1813, a party of travellers succeeded in making their way to the other side of the range of mountains which surround the coast before alluded to, and called the Blue Mountains; and a

himself with an extra suit, one over the other. Down to the morning of the eleventh day they had been on the beach, the wind had not veered a point since their landing, but blew continually from the S. E.

The long-boat was now lying on the beach with her keel upwards. It appears from the statement of Mr. Baxter that they would have embarked earlier, as the natives had by this time exhibited symptoms of a hostile nature, which increased daily: but it was thought advisable to wait for the change of the moon, which during its first quarter generally produces a change of weather; but the queen of the night appeared on this occasion to have suspended her influence over the wind and the tide. After many conflicting opinions had been delivered, it was agreed that the whole party should barter all they had with the natives for fish, &c.; the sails were also to be parted with, and there was less hesitation in doing this, as they had already indulged in their predatory propensity. It was considered advisable, however, that the nautical instruments should be preserved, if pos-

carriage road has since been constructed across, to the distance of more than 100 miles.

☞ In the course of the work we shall give an interesting and detailed account of the beautiful features which this rapidly growing and important colony presents, down to the present period.

sible. While these deliberations were going on, it was a settled point, that they should start on a pedestrian route on the Tuesday after the moon passed her first quarter, and walk the beach to Moreton Bay, a distance by that course of nearly 500 miles. Having determined to quit, they became more liberal in their exchange with the natives by the bartering of clothes for fish. When Tuesday, the day on which they had agreed to depart, had arrived, some of the men refused to commence their journey, and the captain and Mr. Brown, the chief officer, were also inclined to remain. Baxter was solicited by Darge and others to proceed along the beach, but he said he would not leave the captain, his uncle, who at this time was very unwell. *Darge, Youlden, Hanham, Elliott,* and the boy, *Robert Carey,* proceeded on their journey on the Saturday following.

Previous to their departure, Captain Fraser gave up his fowling-piece to Darge, and one of his pistols to Hanham ; and the remaining stock of ammunition was equally divided between both the parties. Unfortunately for them, Darge and his companions could only muster a sufficient quantity of provisions for one day's consumption. The captain and the party who adhered to him were averse to the separation ; but some of the men having solemnly sworn that they would proceed after a certain period, they did so in conformity with their vow.

CHAPTER IV.

“They are quarrelling among themselves; yes, they are divided one against the other; let us consult the captain any how. Under Providence there may be a chance yet.”

BLUFF IN ROBINSON CRUSOE.

“And they journeyed by a way which they knew not.”

PREVIOUS to their leaving, the captain requested them to turn the boat up, as it was his intention to put to sea, if possible, as he had an inveterate dread of the natives; indeed that feeling was common to all of them, as by gestures they had shown how they could spear them. The persons left behind were, Captain and Mrs. Fraser, Brown, the chief officer, Baxter, the second officer, the steward, and Doyle. After the number had been reduced from eleven to six, the natives became more daring, and even came to the tent and took away their property *vi et armis*; hence the captain and the little band which now remained, resolved to leave the spot, whatever might be the consequences; but before they started they procured as many fish as possible, which were dearly purchased, as Mrs. Fraser's China or Indian trunk

only purchased two small mullets. Having provided themselves with two suits of clothes each, they packed up a few bundles of small articles which were likely to be of service ; but before they started they burned a part of the long-boat.

The captain was armed with a pistol, he having just divided the ammunition with Darge before he and his companions deserted their commander. Baxter had a musket, which he cast away during the first day's journey, as he found it burdensome ; Doyle carried a pistol ; Carrallis the steward, as a weapon of defence, carried a huge stick ; and each was provided with a fire-brand made from fibres of the plantain tree. The captain not being able to walk as fast as some of them, it was agreed that those who went first should make a large fire at night-fall, so that those who lingered might know in what direction to come. It would seem that there was a halting between two opinions, for it was 3 P. M. before they commenced their journey, and at 8 the van party arrived at a valley, where they halted. Several *trias* trees growing on the spot, the branches of which easily ignite, a good fire was speedily made, for the double purpose of cooking a portion of their fish, and as a beacon for their companions in the rear.

Each person having nine mullets, they now cooked them all to preserve them from putrefaction. After partaking of a scanty meal, two of

them laid down to sleep, while the third man kept watch according to agreement, as the arrival of Captain and Mrs. Fraser and Brown was expected.

Daylight at length appeared, and the captain and his party had not overtaken them, which occasioned considerable anxiety; and the impression on their mind was, that owing to the fire being kindled in a valley, their companions in misfortune had passed on without observing it.*

The advance party indulging in this notion, provided themselves each with a fire-brand, and proceeded upon a forced march in hope of speedily overtaking them. They had not proceeded at this rate more than fifteen miles along the beach before they were startled from their reverie by seeing a number of the natives marching toward them. In order if possible to avoid a meeting, they were about to leave the beach to seek shelter from observation in the bush; but before they could effect this, the tribe bore down upon them, and at first they appeared to be friendly disposed. The company seeing this, made signs that they wanted fresh water, which was supplied by digging a hole in the sand, an expedient to which the thirsty band down to this time were utter strangers. When the natives by this means supplied them

* The reason of their non-arrival was, that they had been overtaken and plundered by a tribe of natives.

with the salutary beverage, they put a shrub into it, somewhat resembling furze, which had the effect both of cooling and sweetening it. This discovery proved of importance to some of the party in their subsequent months of captivity.

The natives then by signs of a very significant kind, expressed a desire to possess themselves of the clothes worn by the captives; (for so they now became;) and as there were at least thirty armed men against three, resistance was vain. We have already stated, that each of the men carried a bag containing utensils, and trifling articles of clothing, and these were the first things the savages took from them, and carried them into the bush for safety and concealment from other tribes, for it appears that these predatory rascals are habituated to rob one another. They soon after returned and demanded the clothes, when there being some hesitation manifested by Baxter and his companions, they without ceremony divested him of his jacket by way of commencement; their admiration of which being apparently raised by the profusion of *gilt* buttons with which it was adorned.*

* It appears that nothing excites the cupidity of the natives so much as the sight of wearing apparel, and even the most minute article is seized with a savage eagerness. This propensity appears very extraordinary, as they are never seen to wear any article of clothing, nor were the things taken away ever seen by the narrators in the places where they bivouacked.

Baxter resisted their demands with considerable spirit, and at length finding that of no avail, he had recourse to supplication, that they would allow him to retain his dress; but the more he invoked, the more urgent were the savages in their demand; and to end the matter, they beat him

This circumstance opens a field for conjecture to wander in, for there is no doubt but they have a market for these articles in some quarter, or they would not be sought after with so much avidity.

Mr. Baxter ventured to express an opinion on this subject in answer to our inquiries; and there certainly appears to be some reason in it, hence we give it insertion. He considers it not unlikely, that far remote in the bush, a number of bush-rangers, *i. e.* escaped convicts, have formed themselves into a clan or community, and that the articles of European dress are supplied to them.

We inquired as to the means which those lawless fugitives could have of paying for them. The reply was that a reciprocity of feeling and interest existed between the parties, as the rangers often assisted the natives in the interior, in their hunting and fishing excursions; and sometimes joined them in those of a predatory nature, by making a sally upon the settlements belonging to the British colony, and carrying away a booty, which was always given in great part to the natives. Whether this hypothesis be correct or not, one thing is quite clear, that although the "bush-rangers" are for the most part suffered to wander *ad libitum* without molestation, they nevertheless stand in awe of the natives, who possess a power which they sometimes exert, of placing the run-away in a canoe, and conveying him to the penal settlement, for which act they receive a reward from the commissariat department.

violently about the head with their *waddies*,* and took by force what they could not obtain by less passive measures. Carrallis showed less disinclination to obey than Baxter, and being a man of colour, the natives appeared to be less urgent with him. Doyle however was stubborn, and when they attempted to denude him, he drew his pistol, and presented it at them, whereupon a spear was thrust at him, which passed through his jacket close to his body, and at the same moment, another spear passed immediately over his head. It is believed that this was done to intimidate, rather than destroy life, as they are so expert in hurling their spears, that they can direct them with unerring precision to the vital parts from a great distance.

Baxter and Carrallis then besought Doyle to make no further resistance, but submit quietly, and surrender his pistol, when he reluctantly acquiesced with their request. No sooner had the natives possessed themselves of the pistol, than they fell upon him and beat him severely for his temerity, while the others underwent a very trifling punishment, and they took advantage of this cir-

* A *waddy* is a species of club about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, and in weight from six to nine pounds. It is a weapon made generally of iron-bark, and in shape something like a boat's paddle; and the part which they handle, in order to make their grasp firm, is turned in the manner of a screw.

cumstance, by standing between Doyle and his unmerciful assailants, who in consequence desisted from acts of brutal violence, but they stripped the poor fellow quite naked. Baxter and Carrallis having given up their jackets and waistcoats without much hesitation, escaped with a comparatively moderate punishment. Baxter seeing Doyle in a state of nudity, with that considerate kindness which we think from observation to be an innate principle of his nature, gave him one of his pairs of trousers. We have already observed that they started with double suits, and right glad was Doyle from more causes than one to accept of the proffered garment.

When Baxter started, he was careful to carry with him his nautical instruments, but unluckily the quadrant was in one of the bundles which had been seized at the commencement of the rencontre; and when his jacket was taken from him, his sextant was in his possession, which he endeavoured to retain; but the assailants were determined to have it, and they, by gestures, commanded him to show them for what purpose the instrument was intended, which mandate he luckily obeyed without hesitation; this was about 10 A. M. Baxter having arranged it, put it into their hands, and when they saw it brought the sun down to their feet, there appeared in their countenances a mixture of astonishment and alarm, and the latter preponderating,

the sextant was handed back to its owner, who felt highly gratified. As the sun is the deity of many rude tribes, perhaps they thought the sextant acted with a miraculous power upon the great luminary.

The savages then left them, and Baxter and his companions proceeded along the beach, and to their great surprise, they had not travelled more than a mile, before they overtook the captain, his wife, and Mr. Brown, the chief officer, from whom they heard a melancholy recital of the disasters which they had undergone since they parted company, for they also had "*fell among thieves,*" but they did not much indulge their rapacious propensity, and that forbearance seems easily accounted for. The tribe who fell in with them was aware that by their hasty retreat, they must have left many things behind them in the tent they had quitted; hence they made the best of their way thither, lest others should be there before them, and possess the booty; even to secure the boat-sails would be to them a great acquisition.

The whole party now proceeded in company, and agreed not to depart from each other, except in case of some great emergency; and in order to avoid observation, they walked the whole of the night, after taking some rest in the bush during the after part of the day, that they might recruit their strength. During their nocturnal march, they

often walked in the surf, to prevent the natives from tracking their footsteps on the sand.*

The unfortunate travellers continued their march for eight or nine successive nights, and rested all day in the bush, and they were cheered by the hope that they should shortly find succour in the British settlement upon which the eye of their minds was intently fixed, viz. Moreton Bay: but alas, their cup of affliction was not yet a quarter filled. During this tiresome journeying, they subsisted principally on the almost tasteless bread-fruit already referred to, and some berries which they found in the "bush," and these having a very relaxing tendency, their partly recruited health was again invaded by disease, which of course, retarded their progress. The first thing which diverted their minds from the monotony of the scene, was the traces of footsteps of animals, which they afterwards found to be those of kangaroo dogs.†

* This was certainly a prudent precaution, but they afterwards learned that it was a useless one, for such is the sensitiveness of the olfactory nerve of these barbarians, that they can scent the progress of Europeans as well as their quadruped brethren, the *blood-hounds*.

† These dogs are very numerous, and although they run wild, they are frequently domesticated by the natives; and although they live among bipeds more savage than themselves, they seem to be endowed with a considerable share of instinct peculiar to their species, as by a little training they are taught

They afterwards (on the eighth day since they joined company,) made a discovery of a number of footmarks of human beings on the sand, when their former hair-breadth escapes rushed on their minds with a fearful pressure, and during the following night, their apprehensions were raised to a high pitch, and particularly those of Capt. Fraser, who seemed to have an instinctive dread of the savage tribes with which the continent abounded. Poor man!—had he been gifted with fore-knowledge, he might well have entertained that dread. Providence in this, as in all other respects, acts with wisdom and kindness to his creatures—he reserves to himself the *secrets* connected with our terrestrial destiny, for wise purposes; hence we should learn to avoid prying into futurity—“*sufficient to the day is the evil thereof.*”

“ Why should we for to-morrow care?
And pore on ills we may *not* share,
 Anticipating grief:
Scripture and reason both combine,
And *confidence* in God enjoin,
 To bring a sure relief.”

to go out after kangaroos, which, when caught, they bring and lay down at the feet of their master. In size and appearance, they are not unlike a grey-hound, and naturally very inimical to white men—perhaps by tuition.

CHAPTER V.

“The hour’s now come ;
The very minute bids thee ope thy ear ;
Obey !—and be attentive.”

SHAKSPEARE.

ON the morning of the ninth day, they met with fifteen or sixteen natives, of both sexes, (the former tribes being all males,) who were all armed with spears and clubs. When they first saw them in the distance, (it being afternoon,) they thought of taking to the bush until dusk, believing that they had not been discovered. The poor travellers did so, and having met with no molestation, they crept from their hiding-place after dusk, and continued their journeyings. They had not gone far before they discovered a fire before them, and as all their brands were extinguished, they agreed to proceed to it, in order to obtain a light. When they approached it, they found it to be a bivouack of natives, who immediately sallied forth, and beat them most unmercifully with their waddies or clubs, until they were all reduced to a state of

decrepitude. The savages then stripped every thing off their persons, and left them in a state of complete nudity, excepting Mrs. Fraser, who was allowed to retain an article of under dress.

After Doyle and Carrallis had been thus bereft of every article, they proceeded on, and left the others behind. Capt. Fraser and his party, finding themselves quite denuded, plucked a quantity of long grass, which they twisted into bands, and bound round their persons, from their waist to their ancles, in order to shield themselves from the cold, and then pursued the same course which Doyle and Carrallis had previously taken, but did not overtake them; the captain's party afterwards found that they had been captured by the natives.

On the second day after this, they were discovered, while travelling on the beach, by a quantity of natives, who immediately began to *coohee* in a most fearful and boisterous manner. The unfortunate party now expected nothing but death, and some of them remembered hearing at Sydney, of their barbarous usage of the crew of the *Charles Eaton*, about two years before. They all agreed that resistance would be vain, and that it would be better to implore the forgiveness of God, and resign themselves quietly to their fate. What an awful moment of terror and dismay!—but their resolution was a wise one, for it is much safer to fall into the “*hands of God, than the hands of wicked and cruel men.*”

When they approached the motley group, it was discovered that it consisted of a mixture of the red and black tribes, and there appeared more ferocity marked in their countenances than any which they had before seen. The first thing they attempted, was to tear the twisted grass from their bodies and extremities. Baxter and some of the party resisted, thinking that the savages were going to drag them into the bush to kill them, and they thought they might as well be speared at once, as be put to a lingering and cruel death. When the natives found that they were repelled, they applied their lighted fire-brands to the straw, in order to burn them, and to avoid this, Capt. Fraser and Mr. Brown, the chief officer, ran into the surf. Two savages finally laid hold of both the hands of each person, and led them into the bush, and five or six others acted as "a body-guard," by walking before and behind the captives. When they had led them into the wood about the distance of a mile, they halted, and then put all their fire-brands together, to which they added those which had been borne by the prisoners, but for what purpose the narrators did not fully understand, yet they had a dreadful foreboding that it denoted a speedy immolation.

The captives asked for some water, and made signs that they were hungry, and to their great surprise they were promptly supplied with it, and

some fish, which both relieved their body and minds. But their astonishment was elevated to its greatest height before their repast had well concluded, by the savages bringing before them the remainder of the long-boat's crew, who had left them a considerable time before, as has been already stated, viz. *Darge*, *Youlden*, *Hanham*, *Elliott*, and the boy *Carey*, as also *Carrallis* and *Doyle*, the two men who had parted company with the captain a few days before. This appeared to inspire them all with confidence, and former little bickerings and differences of opinion seemed to be forgotten. They were not allowed to enjoy each other's company long, for after their meal, the savages separated them, each taking one and leading him prisoner in a different direction. The natives had been greatly surprised at their mutual rejoicing, when they so unexpectedly met together, and they were equally so at the sorrow manifested when separated from each other.

Before they were separated *Darge* told his companions that they would all be *cooheed* (coloured with red or black ochre), according to the tribe to which they were assigned; and the method of fixing the colour is, by a portion of gum being mixed with the powder. *Darge* having been with the savages several days, told the others in what manner they would be employed, viz. to fetch wood and water for their masters, and also to carry

their *towrows* (fishing gear), when they went on a fishing excursion, and occasionally to carry the spears of the natives.*

The place where this dreadful captivity, as it ultimately proved, commenced between Wide Bay and Sandy Cape.† It appears that the natives never change their place of domicile until compelled to do so from a scarcity of provisions, but when they can find no more kangaroos in one part of the bush they remove to another. In like manner in the fishing season, they continue on one side of a river until the fish are all exhausted, and then they cross over to the other side. The tribes to which Darge and Youlden were attached were taken across the river to attend them during the fishing season; and before he left he told Baxter

* The natural colour of the natives is black, but they are divided into two tribes, black and red, so that the latter are obliged to use an artificial colouring. These great tribes are then sub-divided into clans, consisting of from fifty to a hundred, who form a community both of interest and for labour. They have a dreadful propensity to rob their neighbours of their women, hence feuds and fighting are of frequent occurrence. In respect of disposition, the narrators state, that the black were far less ferocious than the red tribes.

† *Wide Bay* is about 100 miles to the north of Moreton Bay, and about twelve miles south of Sandy Cape. It lies between Double Island Point and Indian Head, lat. $26^{\circ} 0' S.$, long. $153^{\circ} 5' E.$

Sandy Cape is situate on the eastern point of Harvey's Bay, lat. $24^{\circ} 42' S.$, long. $153^{\circ} 16' E.$

that they would make their escape if possible, and proceed to Moreton Bay,* when steps should be

* *Moreton Bay*, one of the penal establishments of the colony of New South Wales, is situated on the eastern coast of Australia, at the mouth of the river *Brisbane*, being in lat. $27^{\circ} 1' S.$, long. $153^{\circ} 26' E.$ The bay is more than sixty miles in extent. It is sheltered by an island, and on the bar there is a depth of eighteen feet water. Mr. Oxley, the late surveyor-general of New South Wales, who discovered the river, describes the scenery on its bank as peculiarly beautiful; the country alternately hilly and level, but not flooded; the soil of the finest description of brushwood land, on which grow timber of great magnitude, in particular a magnificent species of pine was in abundance. At this point the river was navigable for a vessel drawing sixteen feet water, and for thirty miles farther no diminution had taken place in the breadth or depth of the river, except in one place, for the extent of thirty yards, where a range of detached rocks extended across, having more than twelve feet water on them at high water.

The tide ascends daily fifty miles above the mouth of the Brisbane, flowing also up the Bremer, the depth of whose channel it augments by eight or more feet. The country, so far as it has been explored, is of a very superior description, and equally well adapted for cultivation or grazing.

As it regards the geological features of this coast, it may be observed that the sand-stone strata extend from the sea coast to the river Nepean on the west. Beyond the Nepean river the sand-stone strata are forced upwards, and extend from north to south, forming the lofty ridge of the Blue Mountains. Between the latitudes of 3 and 30 degrees, the country gradually ascends from the level of Liverpool plains, of from 240 feet to 2,000 feet above the level of the sea, and presents a broken, irregular

taken to rescue the others. Baxter having studied the chart, told them that there was no river to intercept them after they had crossed the stream in which his party were going to fish. This resolve inspired all the remaining party with hopes, as there was a mutual and solemn pledge between them, that if any one escaped he would use every effort to rescue the others. Baxter, who was principally employed in the bush collecting wood, of

surface, often immersed by low ridges of clay slate. In lat. $28^{\circ} 13'$ a fertile district commences, extending for eighteen miles, or to the foot of the dividing range in the parallel of 28 degrees. At the base of these mountains are procured specimens of basalt, containing olivine; at the height of 1,877 feet above the level of the sea, the rock consists of amygdaloid; and the extreme summit, 4,100 feet above Moreton Bay, of a brick-red cellular trap, the cells having an elongated form and parallel position. Mount Lindsay, near Moreton Bay, as measured by Mr. Cunningham, is 5,700 feet above the sea.

The geology of the country further north is equally striking. The western shores of *Moreton Bay* are faced by a reef of considerable breadth, which at low water is said to exhibit a ledge of chalcedony. In tracing the Brisbane river, which falls into Moreton Bay, all slate, or chlorite; and opposite the settlement, sixteen miles from the mouth of the river, is a quarry of pinkish clay-stone porphyry, used for building. Sixty miles from Moreton Bay ledges of hornstone creep out of the banks, and in the same part of the river a considerable seam of coal appears in its channel.

Although comparatively little is known of the coast to the north of *Moreton Bay*, yet there is every reason to suppose that it partakes of the same general character.

which the natives use a great deal, saw a number of snakes, but he is not aware that any of them are of a venomous kind; to him, at all events, they proved perfectly harmless. He was once attacked and bitten by a wild kangaroo dog, who have apparently a decided antipathy to white men. The prisoners, not being used to the cold winds and dew, frequently suffered much from numbness and cramp, which, when the natives discovered, they directed them to put their lighted fire-brands to their left breasts, and they found that by so doing the circulation of the blood was promoted and kept up, but owing to the constancy of the night dews they were never free, until after sun-rise, from a disagreeable chilliness. With all the exertions that were used by the natives and their wretched slaves, it was difficult to procure a sufficient quantity of provisions, and but a very scanty allowance was doled out to the latter. Sometimes, however, when felling a tree, they were fortunate enough to catch an opossum, a snake, or a rat, which had lodged in the branches, which they treated as their own property, and devoured on the spot. In the winter season the natives sleep in tents* at night, at the mouth of which a large fire is kept burning, but their slaves were not allowed shelter, but as a

* The tents are of an oblong shape, and very low. Baxter compares them to a frame upon which arches are constructed in forming a common sewer.

matter of favour permitted to sleep near the fire upon boughs of trees, dry grass, or any thing which they could procure. If the children should happen to cry and arouse the adults during the night, it was their uniform custom to quit the tent and give the poor slave a sound thrashing, as though he had been the cause of their slumbers being broken; this was, however, when compared with other sufferings, only a trivial punishment, and was not frequently inflicted.*

* It has already been stated that the natives go quite naked without betraying the least degree of shame, even when they visit the British settlement. Mr. Cunningham, in his "*Two Years in New South Wales*," says, in allusion to them, "They may even be seen in the streets of Sydney in *natural* costume, or with a pair of breeches probably dangling round their *necks*, which the modest meaning donor meant to be applied elsewhere. It is amusing to see the consequential swagger of some of these dingy dandies, as they pace lordly along with a *waddy* twirling in their black paws. No Bond Street exquisite could ape the great man better, for none are better mimics of their superiors." The same writer states it as his opinion, that the intellect of these people is naturally good, as they have shown great aptness in many respects, particularly in their soon learning the English language and speaking it so as to be understood, and the *Billingsgate* part of it to perfection.

CHAPTER VI.

“With wonder gaze, and drop the unconscious tear !”

* * * *

“The last faint accents trembled on his tongue,
That now inactive to the palate clung ;
His bosom heaves a mortal groan—he dies !
And shades eternal sink upon *his* eyes !”

FALCONER.

AFTER Darge and Carrallis had departed with their tribes, Baxter and the others continued to pursue their ordinary employment. Induced principally by a hope of escape, they petitioned the savages to let them cross the river, and follow their late companions, and who at first seemed inclined to grant their request, and they were put into several canoes apparently for that purpose, but when they got about 100 yards upon the water, they made them jump into the bay, either to drown or swim back to the beach. This inhuman trick they played upon all the party, Mrs. Fraser not being excepted. This was done to create a savage pleasure ; and when any of the party were seen struggling and almost sinking in their attempts to reach the shore, they *cooheed* and exulted with enthusiasm. Brown, the chief officer, used

frequently to go out with from fifteen to twenty of the natives to carry their *towrows*, and when they saw a shoal of fish, they went round it with the net which was fixed to a large bow, and then he was commanded to beat about in the water to frighten the fish into it; and when it was full, he drew it ashore and emptied it.

A species of white porpoise frequent these shores, which the natives almost deify, and it would be death were any of their captives to kill or injure one of them; it being their notion that as these animals lie near the margin of the bay, they frighten the fish toward the beach. The natives are described as very expert fishermen; and even children of nine years of age have been seen to spear a large fish with wonderful dexterity. The fish which chiefly abound on that coast are mullet and bream; but sometimes sword-fish, and a species called by the natives *stingoree*, are captured. One reason why the party were seldom taken with the natives on fishing excursions was, that they are such swift travellers, that the captives could not keep up with them; and perhaps they were anxious to keep them as ignorant as possible of the passes and tracts which led to the sea, and different rivers inland. In some parts the bush is so closely interwoven together for a considerable distance, that it forms (if we may be allowed the expression) a massive wall of impenetrable wicker work.

In the midst of this wilderness of wood, various ravines appeared, and the avenues which intersected each other were so numerous, that the poor captives were oft-times filled with terror, as should they happen to lose themselves in the labyrinth, nothing but a lingering death by starvation presented itself to their view. Our unfortunate narrators and their companions however were partly divested of this fear, as the party with whom they were obliged to associate generally located at a short distance from the sea shore, in order to keep a better look-out; hence when they were sent to gather wood, the mighty rushing of the surf on the beach, which may be heard for several miles inland, acted as a guide when they retrograded with their burden to their tribe.* Whenever, as it sometimes happened, any of our party went on a fishing excursion, they refused to allow them to cross the river, but left them in the care of another tribe until their return, in order to prevent the possibility of escape by swimming or otherwise.

After they had led this worse than vagabond life for a considerable time, scanty fare and hard labour reduced their strength daily, so that they

* Mrs. Fraser was partly employed in gathering wood, and partly in looking after the children during the time Baxter remained near her, as will be fully explained when we come to her narration.

were unable to perform the tasks required of them; and this appeared to give umbrage to their captors, who being possessed of constitutions naturally robust, and formed for their native climate, appeared to consider physical debility as neither more nor less than the effect of sullenness, or a feigned lassitude. Down to this period the party had not undergone much personal insult, but no sooner did the natives discover that they either could not, or would not "do their bidding," than their savage nature, which had in some degree laid dormant, manifested itself first by resorting to ingenious and horrid modes of torture, and finally, by hurling a deadly instrument and depriving their exhausted victims of existence! Captain Fraser was the first on whom they exercised their extreme vengeance; the particulars of whose melancholy exit will be fully detailed when we give the dreadful account of his widow, who of the whole party was the eye-witness of the appalling scene. Mr. Baxter at the time of this dreadful massacre was not more than a quarter of a mile distant from the spot, but he did not see the corpse till the next morning, when he beheld a party of the barbarians dragging the remains of his unfortunate uncle into the bush; and this was the last time that he was seen by an European eye.

The unfortunate captain seems from the first to have been a marked man, as he underwent more suffering and experienced more contumely than

any of his party. This the narrators account for from the fact that he often interfered in behalf of his wife, when he beheld her subjected to diabolical insults. Whether the savages were aware that she was the captain's wife, or that he was the chief of the captive party, the survivors are not able to say, but they saw enough to create in their minds an indelible impression, that there was but "*a step between him and death,*" previous to the act which at once released him from his pains and anxieties. We hope as we believe, that his disembodied spirit mounted to that region the anticipation of which had been his hope during his stormy life, "*Where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest.*"

Although sudden death might be the immediate prelude to sudden glory to Captain Fraser, there are circumstances connected with those he has left behind him, which call forth the sympathy of the philanthropist, and they will not call in vain: we allude to the widow and three fatherless children of that gentleman.

Disastrous day, what ruin hast thou bred !
 What anguish to the living and the dead !
 How hast thou left the widow all forlorn,
 And ever doom'd the orphan child to mourn ;
 Through life's sad journey hopeless to complain,
 Can sacred justice these events ordain ?
 But O my soul ! avoid that wondrous maze,
 Where *reason* lost in endless error strays !
 As through this thorny vale of life we run,
 GREAT CAUSE of all effects, "*Thy will be done.*"

Perhaps we ought to apologize for thus diverging from the narrative of Mr. Baxter, which is now approaching to its close ; but that gentleman has incidentally communicated to us a few of the important traits of Captain Fraser's character, and moreover allowed us the perusal of some lines composed by that ill-fated gentleman, and written in his own hand, which we shall present to our readers, as they will prepare their minds for a brief memoir of him hereafter. Before we transcribe his poetic effusion upon the loss of *The Comet*, we will attempt an extempore, but humble one of our own in respect of him.

If honour can ennoble man's vain life,
 If charity and truth can lend a charm,
 If reconciling enmity and strife,
 Can in the hour of death the foe disarm,
 Then FRASER died in peace,—for his were those,
 And every action token of them gave.
 Reader—thou'lt shed a tear to his repose,
 Although thou canst not shed it o'er his grave.”*

* Whether the corpse of the martyred captain ever received the rights of sepulture, is a matter of conjecture, but Mr. Baxter is strongly of opinion that it did. Although he was the slave to a distinct tribe from that to which his uncle was attached, he was able to make observations upon which to ground an hypothesis, in consequence of the locality of their respective encampments. He (Baxter) says that in an area or grass plot, a mound was raised somewhat in the shape of a native hut, covered with turf after the manner of graves in a country church-yard, where

“The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.”

Previous to the day when the deadly spear put an end to his sorrows, he had been twice severely wounded by similar instruments ; and although the facts may be hereafter referred to, we hope it may not be superfluous to note them as an anticipating confirmation of the widow's statement.

The first time the unfortunate captain was wounded by the spear of the barbarian, was when he came in contact with the bandits, on the occasion referred to at page 56. Captain F. had a valuable and favourite chronometer, which the savages seemed determined to possess, although they are supposed not to have been able to estimate its intrinsic worth, or the purpose for which it was intended. The captain was not so fortunate with his chronometer, as was his nephew (Baxter) with his sextant ; for when he placed it to their ears in the hope of arousing timidity, the ticking of the instrument at once awakened their curiosity, and gave an additional zest to their rapacity. It is almost needless to add, that the captain and his

The grave (if so it was,) the natives decorated with pine, sapphris, and other barks, as well as with leaves and flowers. For several nights the tribe *corrobered* around it, by way of rejoicing, after the captain was defunct.

Mr. Baxter is of opinion, but he will not vouch for the fact with certainty, that Mr. Brown the chief officer, and the boy Carey, told him, after the death of Captain Fraser, that they were within sight at the time of its occurrence.

chronometer parted for ever. In the course of this rencontre, one of the savages thrust his spear on the cheek of Captain Fraser, which inflicted so deep a wound that the vision of the eye was destroyed for ever.

The next time he suffered, was when he was in captivity, in consequence of his being unable to collect a sufficient quantity of wood for his heartless task-masters, owing to age, infirmity, and exhaustion; the spear on this occasion passed through the calf of his leg. It would really seem that these untutored brutes had been well instructed in the art of teasing; and they strongly remind us of the pranks of a domestic animal of the feline species, who delights in torturing her helpless victims before she devours them.

The following is a *verbatim* copy of the paper to which we have alluded, and leave the reader to form his own opinion, whose indulgence we need scarcely bespeak, when they consider that the effusion is that of a shipwrecked captain, and penned in an open boat, after he had abandoned *the Comet* to her fate.

May 6th, 1830.—Written in the boat on leaving the reef.

My heart is sick, and bones are sore,
 As I'm toss'd on the raging sea,
 My anxious mind can find no rest,
 Thinking, my dear, on thee.*
 Through travelling far in search of gain,
 Our toils are all in vain,
 Our good-like barque's wrecked on a reef,
 And there she must remain.
 Her frame was stout—her beams were strong,
 Her bow kept to the sea,
 The billows beat with all their strength,
 Her timbers for to free.
 For two long days and two long nights
 She stagger'd to and fro,
 At last her frame it must give way,
 And our hearts were fill'd with woe.
 Our only hope was in the boats,
 And God's protecting care,
 Our lives to save and cross the reef,
 All hearts were filled with fear.
 Now farewell, *Comet*, for we must leave,
 Thy sailing's now all o'er,
 Thou wast a fam'd and gallant barque,
 And at Sydney much ador'd.
 Two lambs are left on board of thee,
 Which I'm sorry for at heart,
 A cat and parrot nursed by me,
 For which I had a great regard.

The coral reef which proved fatal to *the Comet*, is situate between New Holland and New Guinea, in the South Pacific Ocean..

James Fraser

* This stanza evidently has allusion to Mrs. Fraser. Little did he think when he penned it, that she would witness his melancholy death in the same latitude, ere the expiration of six years!

CHAPTER VII.

“ Heaven will ere long thy wandering steps restore,
When parted hence, to England’s distant shore.”

FALCONER.

“ Deliverance comes—Huzza! huzza! huzza!”

OLD PLAY.

THE event of the captain’s death was speedily revealed to the party who had crossed the river; and, as a matter of course, excited a more ardent desire in those who remained, to escape as early as possible; but the only chance was by seizing one of the natives’ canoes. *Elliott* and *Doyle*, in a state bordering on frenzy, rushed into Wide Bay, about eleven o’clock in the day-time, with the futile hope of swimming over it. There was no concealment about the matter, for Baxter and others, and some of the natives beheld them. Although excellent swimmers, they were seen to struggle violently before they had swam one-fourth of the way over the expanse of water, at which the natives rejoiced exceedingly; and their mirth was elevated to its highest pitch when they sunk, from exhaustion, into the deep, there to remain until the last trumpet of God shall be sounded, and the mandate of the moral Governor of the universe shall command that “*the sea give up her dead.*”

It is supposed that when the natives saw them go into the water, they thought that Elliott and Doyle were going to bathe, as they were sometimes wont to do, but Baxter and others knew what were their intentions, as they had bidden them farewell; indeed, they considered that the attempt was a hazardous one, and endeavoured to dissuade them from trying the experiment, but in vain.

After witnessing the exit of their two companions, the whole party, among whom there were thirty natives, returned to the bush. At this time the long-boat party was reduced from eleven to five, three being dead, and three having crossed the river.

The natives now became more cruel and frequent in their torture, and exacted more labour from the reduced number than before. These demons in human form employed every method which they could devise, to torture and annoy their miserable captives. No sooner had they fallen asleep in a state of exhaustion, than they applied fire-brands to their feet, and the most sensitive parts of their bodies; and every device was resorted to by which pain could be created, in order that their joy might be enhanced at the writhing of their victims.*

* Baxter has informed us of a mode of torture which was inflicted two or three times upon him, the peculiarities attending which are not only diabolical, but too indelicate to detail.

Shortly after the exit of Elliott and Doyle, the tribe took Hanham and the lad Carey across the bay on a fishing excursion, and the number left in the bush was reduced to three persons, viz. Mrs. Fraser, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Baxter. These unhappy persons kept as much in each other's company as they possibly could, but there appears to have been a determination on the part of the natives to let them have as little communion as possible. Hanham and Carey had not been gone more than four or five days, when Mr. Brown was inhumanly tied to a stake, and a *slow fire* being placed under him, his body, after the most excruciating sufferings, was reduced to ashes! Mr. Baxter states, that he was not far from the place of immolation at the time his companion was suffering, but he was spared the pain he must have endured had he been, like Mrs. Fraser, an eye-witness of the revolting scene; he, however, afterwards saw the plain of Moloch, upon which were spread the ashes of his lamented friend.* Gracious

Another, and less painful one, was to pluck out portions of his hair and beard.

* Mr. Brown is described by the survivors as having been a fine athletic man, with a noble and expressive countenance, and about thirty-six years of age; he was a native of Rothsay, N. B., and having been brought up to the sea from his youth, and favoured with a good education, he was well skilled in the art of navigation. He was a great favourite of Captain Fraser's,

God ! well, indeed, might thy servant David implore thee to “ *have respect to thy covenant ; for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty.* ”

For some time before his death, Mr. Brown had suffered much from exhaustion and cruel usage ; indeed, his fine manly form was reduced to decrepitude, and he had become a mere skeleton. Mr. Baxter had an interview with him the day before he was led forth to the slaughter, when they conversed seriously upon their miserable condition. Poor Brown appeared to be conscious that his end was drawing near, but he little thought then that in a few hours he would have to “ *pass through the valley of the shadow of death,* ” with a lingering fire as his companion to the confines of eternity !

Mr. Baxter proceeds to state, that after the death of Brown, Mrs. Fraser was taken across the water to the other side of Wide Bay, and he was the only one left with the tribe, who gave him the name of “ *Curri.* ” The natives now became much more cruel to him than they had hitherto been, but whether it was because he was left solitary he will not undertake to say, yet to us it appears exceedingly probable.

He was now taken by from fifteen to twenty

and had been his chief officer for several years, down to his decease, and was his companion at the wreck of *the Comet.*

natives into the interior, upon an opossum and kangaroo expedition, and he thinks that he must have travelled inland from 150 to 200 miles. During his journey he fell in with "a bush-ranger," (that is, a runaway convict,) who had escaped from the penal settlement of Moreton Bay several years before, and had now united himself with a tribe of natives—conformed to their customs, and taken one of their females as his constant companion.

The two tribes which thus met being on terms of amity with each other, they continued together for seven or eight hours, but both parties were destitute of provisions. During their stay, Baxter and the bush-ranger had a great deal of conversation, which did not seem to please either party of the natives, but none of them evinced so much jealousy as the ranger's wife. Baxter forgets the name of this *fugitive and vagabond*, but he said that his relations lived in London, and that several years before he had been transported from England to New South Wales for fourteen years, but that having broken the law while in the colony, he was tried, convicted, and sentenced to be transported to the penal settlement before-named, for the term of his natural life.

This man did not appear to sympathize much with our narrator, but he held out a faint hope that one day he might give his tyrants the slip, but he implored Baxter (should he ever reach Moreton

Bay) not to name the circumstance of their meeting ; he promised to do so, and kept his word. He told Baxter that after he escaped to the bush, he was a slave for some time to the tribe he was then attached to, but as a female was very fond of him, he united his destinies with her, and thus obtained manumission. He also said, that his tribe was going up into the mountains in search of honey, where they would fare better than they could on the sea coast ; in fact, he said, exultingly, “ We shall get fat when we get up yonder.” *

Baxter and his tribe remained in the interior for several days, employed in a hunting excursion ; but being too early in the season, they met with but little success, and therefore returned again to the beach. After they had been on the margin of the bay a few days, Baxter was suddenly startled by the natives setting up a most boisterous *coohee* in the afternoon of the 15th of August ;—a day which he will never forget while life and being last—a day when the merciful hand of God was stretched out to deliver him from the hands of blood-thirsty and wicked men, whose tender mercies are cruelty, and whose habitations are polluted

* The ranger was a tall, athletic man, apparently about thirty-seven years of age, and in an entire state of nudity. He had been *cooched* (coloured) with black, white, and yellow ochre, but he formed a singular contrast to the natives, from the length of his beard, mustachios, and hair, the latter being tied up in a huge bunch at the crown of his head.

with blood. [vide Prov. xii. 10, and Lam. iv. 14.] Upon looking around to discover the cause of their rejoicing, he saw that their attention was directed toward the beach, and his observation naturally followed in that direction. He then saw a white man on the beach, walking toward them with nothing on his person but a pair of canvas trowsers. The first impression on his mind was that the man was either a bush-ranger or else a shipwrecked mariner like himself, who had been cast upon that accursed shore.

As soon as they met, Baxter hailed him by exclaiming, "What ship?" The stranger immediately replied, "I am come to rescue you from the hands of the savages." Baxter suspecting that he was a bush-ranger, asked him by what means he could work his deliverance? The answer was, that he was a convict, and he had come from Moreton Bay by order of Captain Fyans, for the purpose of rescuing him and his companions; and if he succeeded he was to receive a free pardon. The stranger, in order to inspire Baxter with confidence, informed him that Lieutenant Otter and a detachment of the 4th regiment or King's Own, were lying in ambuscade at a short distance from the place where they then stood; and said, that if he (Baxter) could walk, they would start that very evening. He also informed him that three of his party had already arrived at Moreton Bay, viz., Joseph Carrallis, Robert Darge, and Henry Youlden. He then told him that he had formerly been a

“bush-ranger,” and was well acquainted with the habits and customs of the natives on that coast.

Before their conversation ended, the hope by which Baxter had been inspired was extinguished ; for to his consternation he beheld a party of natives approaching, and who quickly surrounded them, when they immediately recognised the stranger, he having been in their company before, and from whom he was taken by the mounted police. This gallant fellow, whose name is Graham, caused great rejoicing among the natives, as they thought he had come over voluntarily to remain with them. Graham told Baxter that at night they would be sure to have a *corrobery* on the occasion of his arrival ; and he was to hold himself in readiness to start at a moment’s notice, but should he make any attempt to flee before he (Graham) gave the signal, they would both suffer instant death. Baxter told him he would put himself entirely under his guidance and direction during the whole evening, and watch his every motion while the natives were dancing.

At length the much-desired moment arrived : the signal was given ; and while the natives were intently engaged upon the giddy mazes of their rude dance, Graham and Baxter ran with all speed to the water side, when they got into a canoe, and the paddles thereof were instantly put into full play, so that by hard tugging they got over to the other side of the bay in about forty minutes.

CHAPTER VIII.

“The curled lion and the rugged bear,
Are not so dreadful as these savage men ;
* * * * * I fly—I fly!”

SHAKSPEARE.

It is impossible to describe the feelings of Baxter while he was crossing the bay. The passions of which the mind is susceptible entered into a fierce conflict ; hope, fear, and anxiety, however, did not unnerve his arm, or that of his companion, whose liberty depended upon a successful result to the enterprize. On the contrary every muscle of the frame was exerted, so that by hard labour the canoe glided on the surface of the water, as though it had been the “enchanted skiff” which we read of in “the Fairy Queen.”

Immediately that they landed on the other side of the bay, they ran as fast as possible in the direction toward where Lieutenant Otter and his party were in ambush ; but they had not proceeded far before Baxter was seized with the cramp in his stomach, and could proceed no farther. In this dilemma Graham thought it advisable to kindle a

fire, although he was aware to what danger of immediate pursuit it might expose them both, should the natives have discovered their elopement. However he had no alternative, and as one pair of trowsers was the only article of clothing they had between them, Graham held fire-brands near the breasts of Baxter, which in a short time set the blood in circulation, so that they were soon enabled to proceed on their journey, and to their great joy they arrived at the place where Lieutenant Otter and his party halted, about nine o'clock in the morning. Here every kind attention was paid to Baxter, who was an invalid, but his spirits were elevated by finding Robert Hanham and the boy Carey under the protection of the soldiers, they having been previously rescued by the bold and enterprising Graham.* After partaking of some refreshment, Graham again sallied forth in quest of one in whom the party felt a more particular interest than any of the others, in consequence of her sex, and the dreadful sufferings she was said to have undergone, that fact being fully confirmed by Baxter. He had not been more than twelve hours at the place of rendezvous before Graham

* Mr. Baxter has heard that Hanham and Youlden have since died, in consequence of the ill treatment they received among the barbarians. The boy Robert Carey is apprenticed to a respectable boat-builder in Sydney.

again made his appearance, having brought Mrs. Fraser with him, who was joyfully and hospitably received by the gallant lieutenant and his brave soldiers, who supplied their fair charge with clothing which had been sent out by the ladies of Moreton Bay ; the particulars whereof will be more fully explained when we give that lady's narrative of her sufferings and miraculous escape.

At the time that the party were placed under the care of Lieutenant Otter, the wind was veering to the south-east ; hence he was unable to return by sea in the two boats which had brought his party down from the penal settlement ; in fact, they were completely wind-bound. In the course of a few hours after Mrs. Fraser's arrival, the natives came down upon them, when Lieutenant Otter gave orders that they should not be molested, unless their hostility might warrant it ; and should that be the case, he knew that his ten soldiers, who were well armed and stocked with ammunition, could soon drive them away, pell-mell, as the savages are very averse to fire-arms.

The Lieutenant was induced to act with lenity and humanity to them, from considering that there might yet be some of the crew belonging to the pinnace along the coast, with whom the natives might fall in, and revenge themselves for any casualty which might have arisen, had martial force been resorted to. On the first arrival of the savages, he gave them several *mocoës* (axes), of

which they are very fond, and knowing this, the officer had brought down a variety. The natives informed the soldiers that they were *ava wirro* (very hungry), and the Lieutenant gave them some bread and meat, which they devoured voraciously, and seemed much pleased at the hospitable reception they met with.* Lieutenant Otter having brought down a quantity of axes for the purpose of ransom, had it been necessary, made them further presents, justly considering that kind treatment might have a better effect upon their after conduct than the use of that coercive power which he possessed.† After they had regaled themselves, the natives collected the presents which had been

* The natives who first approached the camp were all of the male gender, but those of the other sex were near at hand. After their repast they expressed a wish, through Graham, that their *Ginns* should be invited. [*Ginn* is an universal term by which females are designated all along the coast of New Holland, without reference to their age or standing in the tribe to which they belong.] Lieutenant Otter, with that politeness which is the characteristic of a British officer, sent an invitation by some of the young natives, desiring that the sable ladies would pay him a visit, which they readily obeyed, when bread and sugar were set before them, of which they ate heartily. During their stay the women were continually crying out, "*Curri, Curri,*" and expressed great surprise that Baxter should have been arrayed in so short a time in European clothing.

† So passionately fond are these savages of a moco, that they have been known to give up a runaway convict upon receiving two or three axes as a reward. Mr. Baxter doubts

bestowed on them, and departed, to all appearance, in a satisfied and friendly manner.

It was, however, ascertained, that instead of proceeding across the bay in their canoes, they remained lurking in the bush during the night, in the vicinity of the military encampment.

It having been decided that the party should remain where they were for a short time, in the hope that there would be a change of wind, some

whether they would hesitate to give up their dearest friend for the same reward, if they could not procure it by other means.

Lieutenant Otter being aware of this propensity, had recourse to a very ingenious artifice, by which he worked upon the credulity of the natives. When the natives first came up he caused a number of axes to be placed under the fire in the tent, and he set the convicts (or boat's crew) to work upon them, moving them about in the fire, and then knocking one against the other so as to induce the savages to believe that they could make as many as they pleased on the spot. Lieutenant Otter seeing their astonishment at the facility with which the axes were drawn from the embers, pointed to the muskets and bayonets, and informed them by signs that they could manufacture these weapons with equal ease. Graham, who, from his former residence with the tribe, acted as an interpreter, by order of the Lieutenant informed them that if they had other white men in the bush and would fetch them, a quantity of mocoës should be made and presented to them. The natives assured him that, when *Curri* (Baxter) escaped, there was not, to their knowledge, another European in the bush. Lieutenant Otter laughed heartily when the savages were gone, at their apparent gullibility, and the hopes and fears he had inspired in their minds by resorting to this simple stratagem.

of the soldiers and boat's crew went into the bush to gather wood, in order to keep up a good fire during the night, and each man took an axe with him for that purpose.

The sight of the *mocoës* aroused the cupidity of the lurking ingrate scoundrels, who fell upon the wood-gatherers, and wounded some of them severely, particularly Charles Preey, a crown prisoner, and another convict, named David Shannon; this was done while they were in the act of felling a tree. In this, as upon most occasions, the dastards had recourse to their redoubtable spear, and wounded Preey in his side, and the other through the fleshy part of his thigh, but the latter wound was but slight when compared with the other. This was on the 16th of August, the day after the deliverance of our unfortunate narrators, who now learned the value of companionship with British soldiers, and the efficacy of British muskets. About the time of the rencontre we have already alluded to, a convict, named Henry Williams, obtained leave to walk the beach to collect shells, this coast abounding with a curious variety in this department of natural history: while thus employed, a party of scouts fell upon him, and after his resistance proved fruitless, they divested him of every article of clothing, and sent the poor fellow back to the camp in a state of nudity. When Lieutenant Otter discovered that the conduct of the natives indicated hostility, he

thought proper to set a piquet, or out-guard, of eight men, in order to prevent surprise during the night, and he took upon himself to look after them occasionally.

The necessity of such precautionary measures was very soon manifest, for about midnight the savages came down in a body upon the camp with a mighty rush, and so secretly did they manage this that they were not observed until they arrived on the spot. This was too bold an attempt to be overlooked, and the officer in command ordered his men to discharge their musketry, which they instantly did, and the natives rushed into the bush, some of them vociferating dreadful yells; and the blood which was discovered next morning told a tale of suffering, if not of death.*

It appears that the tribe to whom Baxter had belonged were very much attached to him; for, when they visited the camp they vociferated, "Curri, Curri!" intimating that if the soldiers would give him up they would be satisfied.†

* Baxter related to us an anecdote which shows at once that simplicity and ferocity may inherit the mind of the same person. When the soldiers presented their muskets, the natives tore up pieces of turf and placed on their necks, in order to repel the force of the bullets.

† *Curri* was the name which the natives gave to Baxter, and they appear to have considered him an useful auxiliary, he being the only person of the whole party who retained a suf-

On the following day, the wind having veered to the N. E., and therefore more favourable, the party embarked on board the boats, and proceeded toward Moreton Bay, leaving Double Island Point. The first boat contained Lieut. Otter, another officer, Mrs. Fraser and the complement of military, the crew consisting, as has been stated, of crown prisoners. In the other boat were Baxter, Hanham, and the boy Carey, as well as that part of the crew of the *Stirling Castle* which were found there at their landing; making seven of the long-boat party out of eleven—the melancholy end of the other four has already been stated. After a voyage of two days, with the aid of sails in addition to their oars, the party reached Moreton Bay, where they met with great hospitality and kindness, the only distinction being that Mrs. Fraser was conveyed to the house of Stephen

ficient degree of strength to enable him to perform the arduous duty required of him. When he was domiciled with them, he used every endeavour to please and amuse them, and particularly the children, but sometimes the very measures he resorted to gave offence. The adult males used to delight to see Baxter and one of his companions spar together, *Cribb a la mode*, but none of them ventured to become an antagonist. Some of the youths, however, showed a desire to join in a pugilistic contest, but should the European happen to give a blow which caused pain, woe betide him! instant punishment was inflicted. The pastime which most amused the *ladies* was to see Baxter and his party turn heels over head.

Owen, Esq. of the Commissariat department, and Baxter and all his companions were removed to the hospital, where they were daily visited by Dr. Robinson, Captain Fyans, Lieut. Otter, and Mrs. Commissary Owen, and other persons of distinction, who manifested great concern for their welfare. Such however was the state of their health, owing to long abstinence, as well as mental and bodily suffering, that the medical attendant deemed it advisable that they should abstain from animal food for several days, and kept on slight nutriment, consisting of arrow-root, sago, &c. ; and lest any person should from a mistaken feeling of kindness administer an improper regimen, they were locked in a separate ward, under the care of an old nurse and wardsman. Opposite to Baxter's bed was a *safe* cupboard, in which the nurse deposited her food, and one night she happened to leave it unlocked. This was a temptation not to be overcome: the fact was communicated to Hanham, and when the nurse and the night wardsman had fallen into the arms of Morpheus, they went to the cupboard, and made dreadful havoc with a piece of corned beef, and a dish of cold cabbage. The next morning their delinquency was discovered, when their administrators of boluses and emulsions besought the two friends not to divulge the fact, as they should be blamed, and perhaps punished for incaution. The health of the parties rallied when

they were put on the half diet, but the cravings of nature demanded more, and Baxter besought Dr. Robinson to allow them an increased ration. The doctor looked grave, and shaking his head, said that it was too soon to permit animal food at present. Baxter ventured to contradict him, and declared that meat would do him no harm. Dr. Robinson wishing to know the reason why, Baxter, having obtained a promise that blame should attach to no one, told the Doctor of the previous night's adventure with the nurse's beef and cabbage, at which he laughed heartily, and the request was granted.

Having partially recovered from his distressing debility, Baxter was allowed to become an out-door patient, when he took up his abode at the house of Colour-Sergeant Perry, of the 4th regiment, in which Sergeant Burns of the same corps resided ; and he will ever feel grateful for the kind attention which was paid to him by those gallant and humane soldiers.

Baxter and his companions having remained seven weeks at Moreton Bay, set sail for Sydney, which port they reached in five days, it being on Saturday, October 15th, 1836.

By a singular coincidence our narrator and his companions had been absent exactly five months, the Stirling Castle having cleared Sydney Head on the 15th of May previous. During that period,

“ What troubles had they seen,
What conflicts had they pass'd,
Fightings without, and fears within,
Since they assembled last !”

On their arrival, Mr. Bryant, the agent for the Stirling Castle, sent for them, and informed Baxter that it was the wish of the public, that he and his companions should attend in St. James's church the next day, in order to return thanks, when the Bishop of Australia would preach a thanksgiving sermon, and a collection would be made for their benefit. To this reasonable proposition they agreed, and the next day they went to the principal episcopal church, and the males were seated in the centre aisle without their jackets, viz. Baxter, Carrallis, Darge, and the boy Carey. Hodge was not able to attend on the occasion on account of illness.

Baxter and his companions were not a little surprised when they found themselves in the midst of a public congregation divested of their upper garments; but they ascertained that this was done in order to render them conspicuous, so that they might be easily identified, and, perhaps, for the purpose of exciting a generous sympathy in their behalf. A collection was made at the conclusion of the solemn service, and a public subscription entered into in the colony; but, by the account of all with whom we have conversed on the subject, no part of the money found its way to the pockets

of the persons for whom it was collected, and all the benefit they derived from it was the supply of some few articles of clothing. Baxter felt an anxiety on the subject as well as his companions, and he went to Mr. Bryant, the agent, and requested to be allowed to look at the list, but to his apparently (to our view at least) reasonable request he met with a direct negative, and was told that the particulars would be published in the Sydney Times and Sydney Gazette; but, if that was ever done, it was after Baxter had left the colony.

Mr. Baxter remained at Sydney from the 15th of October, 1836, to the 11th of November, when he went on board the *Elizabeth* barque, Captain John Austin, which, on its return from South America, was about to proceed to Valparaiso, Arica, and other places along the coast, previous to her return to London.

Governor Bourke, of New South Wales, issued an order for Baxter to have a free passage to England, but he refused the offer, preferring, weak as he was from the previous injuries he had received among the savages, to work his way, in order that he might have something to give his aged mother on his return.* Captain Austin was

* The venerable lady whom he calls by the endearing name of mother, does not actually stand in that relation. The fact is, she is his grandmother, and has passed over her "threescore years and ten," and for the last seven, confined by paralysis.

aware of the sufferings he had undergone, and hence he extended to him every possible indulgence and relaxation from labour; and Baxter requested as a favour that we would express his heartfelt gratitude to that gentleman through this public medium—a request with which we cheerfully comply.

The Elizabeth was formerly a bomb-ship in the English navy, and, therefore, from her peculiar construction, would not carry a tonnage according to her measurement. Her cargo consisted, among other things, of 6355 bags of saltpetre, 400 bags of cocoa, and about the same number of Peruvian bark. The vessel was a remarkably fast sailer, and making her voyage in 104 days, arrived in the London Docks on Saturday, the 24th of June.

He says, that the day will ever be remembered by him, it being that on which our beloved young queen was proclaimed monarch of the United Kingdom and its dependencies, in the Borough of the Tower Hamlets. But it will be memorable from a higher and nobler recollection—the shipwrecks, perils, and deaths he had escaped forced themselves upon his memory; indeed, it could not be otherwise in the mind of a person

Baxter had the misfortune to lose his parents when an infant, and became the object of her fostering care; and the attachment which exists between them is of no ordinary character.

decidedly of a religious turn, as is that of Baxter. He could feelingly exclaim,

“ When all thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys ;
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love, and praise.”

His homeward-bound voyage was not free from disaster, and among other accidents they lost their quarter-boat, which left them with only a long-boat for use in any emergency which might arise ; and this loss nearly proved fatal to the lives of two of the sailors. A few days after the Elizabeth had crossed the line, one of the mariners (Thomas Colley), while setting up the starboard jib-guys, fell overboard, owing to the lanyard giving way.

At the time this accident occurred, the ship was going at the rate of four knots an hour, and as they had no quarter-boat, the vessel hove-to. As it would be a work of considerable time to launch the long-boat, Captain Austin threw a hen-coop overboard, to which Colley swam, and which, eventually, was the means of saving his life, but not before he had undergone another peril, for, although he was buoyed up by the coop, those on board were unable to reach him. At this critical moment, a brave fellow, named Alexander McKay, jumped overboard with the lead-line, with the intention of lashing it to the hen-coop, so that those on board

might haul it up; and while they were in the act of doing so, John Higgins accidentally, or from carelessness, let the line slip through his hands, and the coop and two men again floated from the ship's side into the current.

The captain, having no other alternative, gave prompt orders for the top-sails to be lowered, and the long-boat to be got out, as there were now two men clinging to the coop, which was scarcely able to keep their heads above water. In consequence of the weight of the boat, it was a considerable time before she was launched, during which the coop and the two men were drifting fast and far away from the ship. The men in the boat used their utmost exertions, and providentially came up with the poor fellows, who had been more than an hour and a half in the sea, and, who from exhaustion and cold, were ready to sink into a watery grave. Every attention was paid to them when they arrived on board which a humane captain could afford, and the invalids speedily recovered. That which excited an unpleasant sensation in the minds of the captain and crew, was the circumstance of two large sharks having closely followed the ship on the day before the accident occurred.

In concluding the narrative of Mr. Baxter, we take the liberty of making a few observations. It has been our pleasure to spend many days in his company, and we have found him intelligent,

yet simple-hearted; and no person could have given a recital with a more sincere desire to state facts than he evinced during the whole of our searching—we had almost said impertinent inquiries. If, at any time, from lapse of memory, he made a mistake, however trifling, or upon recollection he discovered that he had stated a circumstance which was not quite correct to the very letter, his anxiety to have it altered was as remarkable as it was laudable.

The family of which Baxter is now the only male adult survivor (Captain Fraser's young son excepted), have all been sea-faring men, and their history is a mournful one. Mrs. Fraser, the venerable lady to whom we lately alluded, is the mother of sixteen children, of whom only one is living, an amiable daughter, who is the companion and supporter of her aged parent. Several years ago her son John went out as commander of a vessel, which is supposed to have foundered at sea, as neither she nor her crew were ever heard of after she passed a certain latitude, where she was spoken with. James, another son, sailed in the *Lady Collyer*, Captain Gordon, in the year 1828, who, when he got to Lima, on the coast of Chili, left the ship, and entered into the service of Lord Cochrane. He has never since been heard of. Elizabeth, a daughter of Mrs. Fraser, was married to Baxter's father, about the year 1810, who served on board a man-of-war, and fell in one of the memorable

battles which was fought about that period. The grandfather of Baxter also belonged to the Royal Navy, and remained until he became a veteran in the service.

It ought not to be inferred that because a young person lives and acts as one who considers himself an accountable, as well as mortal being, that he is incapable of studying, and successfully too, those sciences to which the bent of his mind is more particularly directed—such a notion would be as incompatible with charity as it is inconsistent with reason and common sense. Baxter, from his childhood, has been bred to the sea, and has made several long voyages; and considering the few advantages he has had in point of tuition, he appears to have acquired a great deal of knowledge in the art of navigation. When the *Stirling Castle* was wrecked, his first desire, next to the salvation of his own life and that of his honoured uncle, the Captain, was to secure his Bible, quadrant, sextant, &c., and in this he succeeded; and when assailed by savage tribes, he strove to preserve them with a persevering tenacity. Although our unfortunate narrator has scarcely attained his twenty-fourth year, his constitution is so much impaired in consequence of the treatment he received from barbarian hands, that we fear we may say of him as Dibdin says of one of his nautical heroes,

“ He'll never more be fit for sea.”

Poor fellow ! he is aware of this physical disability, and he laments it, and the more so as he was rising in his profession ; from the gains whereof he contributed to the support of his aged paralytic grandmother, who fostered him in his infancy, when death deprived him of his father and mother.

He appears to have been much attached to his lamented relative, of whose memory he speaks with enthusiasm, not only as a relative but as a commander. Nothing seems to us to please him better than to dilate on the nautical acquirements of Captain Fraser, and the “ tales of the sea,” which he has heard him relate ; and he appeared more anxious that we should dwell upon his bodily and mental sufferings and miserable end, than upon his own afflictions and hair-breadth escapes.

☞ The Author, in taking leave of Baxter for the present, begs to state that he has received much information from him connected with the natural history of the country, and the manners and customs of the natives, to whom he was a captive, as also a variety of amusing anecdotes, which will be recorded before *the History of the Shipwreck of the Stirling Castle* is brought to a close.

CHAPTER IX.

“ Yet when sun in ocean set,
Olla loo! olla loo!
Caffree chief him wrongs forget,
Dance the spear-dance through.
Wake the music of the shield,
Caffree soon make pale-face yield;
Bot-ti bol! wat-ti wol!
Wid him warlike waddie!
White man fear, black man near,
Him take dark revenge!”

MONCRIEFF.

BEFORE we enter upon the distressing, yet interesting narrative of Mrs. Fraser, which will contain many allusions to the manners of the natives, as well as their barbarous customs, we have thought proper to insert a succinct account of the tribes which form the aboriginal population of the new world; and as it is drawn from the most authentic sources, we anticipate that it will be read with attention, especially as it will in some degree pave the way for the subsequent and perhaps, although of a melancholy description, the most interesting part of the history of the shipwreck of the STIRLING CASTLE.

The aboriginal population of the whole region of New South Wales, which includes that with which this narrative is more especially connected, have many peculiarities. They appear to form a distinct race to which the term *Papuas*, or oriental negroes, has been assigned; and whether on the northern and tropical, or southern and temperate shores of Australia, possess the thick prominent lips, sunken eyes, high cheek bones, and calveless legs of the African, differing, however, in the hair, which (except in Van Dieman's Land, and the adjacent equally cold coast of Australia, where the heads of the natives are woolly) is long and coarse. The nose, though large, is not so flat as the Africanders', indeed it is sometimes of a Roman form, and the forehead is high, narrow, and at the crown formed somewhat after the manner of the roof of a house. Generally speaking they are of the middle height, but some of them are of lofty stature; the women are smaller than the men, but well made, as indeed is most generally the case with the male sex: the hands and feet are comparatively small, the shoulders finely rounded, but the abdomen frequently protuberant, and the arms long. The colour of the skin and hair is generally black, but some tribes have been seen of a lighter colour, approaching to that of the Malay, with hair of a reddish cast. As is the case with all savages, the head is the principal part for decoration; some

divide the hair into small parcels, each of which is matted together with gum, and formed into lengths like the thrums of a mop; others by means of yellow gum fasten on the head the front teeth of a kangaroo, the jaw bones of a fish, human teeth, feathers, pieces of wood, tails of dogs, &c. &c. When going to war, or grieving for a deceased friend, or occasionally for ornament, white or yellow pigments are applied in streaks over the whole body, according to the taste of the decorator; such as a large white circle round each eye, waving lines down and across the thighs and legs.

Their only cutting instruments are made of stones, sometimes of jasper, fastened between a cleft stick with a hard gum. Their arms of offence or defence consist of the spear, coomerang, and several kinds of waddies or *nullah nullahs*, a small stone tomahawk, and bark shield; the spear is generally from ten to twelve feet long, as thick as a finger, tapering to a point, sometimes jagged, or barbed, and hardened in the fire; this they can throw from fifty to sixty feet with great precision, the impetus being greatly increased by the use of the *toomera* or throwing stick, which is of wood, about three feet in length, three inches broad at one end, and giving off to a point at the other, to which a short hook is fastened: this hook is inserted in a small hole at the extremity of the spear, and the *toomera* being grasped

at the broad part, acts somewhat on the principle of a sling, thereby enabling a powerful man to throw a spear, some say to the distance of 100 yards. The *coomerang* is still more curious: it is of a curved form, made of a piece of hard wood, thirty or forty inches in length, two and a half to three inches wide at the broadest part, and tapering away at each end nearly to a point: the concave part is from one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch thick, and becomes quite sharp. A native can throw this simple instrument forty or fifty yards horizontally, skimming along the surface, not more than three or four feet from the ground; without touching, when it will suddenly dart into the air, to the height of fifty or sixty yards, describing a considerable curve, and finally falling at his feet. During the whole of this evolution, the *coomerang* turns with great rapidity like a piece of wood revolving on a pivot, and with a whizzing noise. The waddies, or nullah nullahs, are clubs of different size and solidity. The tomahawk is a piece of sharpened stone frequently fixed in a cleft stick with gum: with this they cut notches in the trees, and ascend them to the height of sixty feet, though without a branch, and by far too thick to be grasped.

Their form of government consists of old men who act as chieftains, each tribe consisting of from thirty to fifty men, women and children, (sometimes more,) having their respective territories or

grounds, of about from twenty to thirty square miles, on which no other tribe is permitted to encroach. Too many instances have occurred to doubt that cannibalism is practised among many of the Australian tribes, and in a manner the most revolting; not only their enemies slain in war, and those unfortunate Europeans who have fallen into their power, have been eaten, but numerous examples have occurred, of the father killing and eating his own offspring! Hunger long continued—intense ravening hunger, is the excuse made for such barbarism.* So vitiated is their taste, that they have been known to bleed themselves, in order to make a sort of cake of blood, which they greedily devour!

“Cannibalism, there is great reason to believe, has been a general custom among all nations in the early stages of civilization, and doubtless was

* Mr. Baxter witnessed one instance of the kind, while he was in Australia. Among some of the tribes it is the invariable custom, when the woman has twins, for the father to compel the mother to kill at least one of them. A native called Boongarre, was once remonstrated with, for allowing a woman to kill her twin child; he shrugged up his shoulders, and said, “*Bel boodgeree* (not good) *kill it pickanniny*,” but he used no effort to suppress the practice.

It appears from the statements of Mrs. Fraser and Mr. Baxter, that the natives, after feeding on human food, carefully clean and preserve the bones of the victim; and it has fallen to the lot of these unfortunate persons to carry them from place to place, when the tribes journeyed from one part to another.

brought about by the instinct of self-preservation operating through war and famine. In Otaheite a period of scarcity is down to the present day denominated a 'man-eating season,' and even among our run-away convicts or bush-rangers, we have reason to believe that cannibalism is by no means rare. It also existed in the Paumeteo islands, in the vicinity of Otaheite, previous to their conversion to Christianity; and it still exists in its full force in New Zealand."

A very intelligent traveller who has been in the country inhabited by what are called Argyle natives, states that he once looked into the bag of one of their "*ginns*," (wives,) and found the fleshy part of a man's thigh in it! Mr. Cunningham, a surgeon in the Royal Navy, states:—"When I was at Sydney, a party of the Argyle tribes called there on their way downwards, after fighting with the Bathurst tribes, who had invaded their territory. One of the warriors, in answer to a question from me, held up his five fingers to designate the number of the enemy he had killed; but it was not till some hours afterwards, that I learned a female had made one of the number, her breast having been detected in one of the bags carried by the *ginns*, which they without hesitation declared they intended to eat, saying that the remainder of the woman had already been devoured. This spectacle was witnessed by more than twenty individuals, therefore I could not doubt the fact. It

is curious that cannibalism exists only among the tribes when there are no hereditary chiefs, nor indeed I may say, any individuals possessing authority, excepting what their own strength and bravery, and the attachment of their connexions afford."

Of religion no form, no ceremonial, no idol, has been discovered among them; but they nevertheless employ many superstitions. When one of their own tribe pay the debt of nature, they invariably destroy a native of another tribe, but the reason of this is not known.*

* Although their creed, if they possess any, does not deter them from the perpetration of a bad action, or excite to the commission of a good one; it is certain that there are among the tribes, some who believe in a good spirit, which they call *Koyan*, and also in an evil spirit, which is called *Potoyan*. The former is held to watch over and protect them from the machinations of the latter, and to assist in restoring the children which the other destroys and devours. They first propitiate *Koyan* by an offering of spears, after which they set out in quest of a lost child, which if they discover, *Koyan* of course obtains the credit; but if they cannot find it, the inference is, that something has been done to incur his displeasure. *Potoyan* strolls about after night-fall to seek for prey, but is afraid to approach a fire, which serves as a protection against him; hence it is that the natives are not fond of travelling in the dark, or retiring to rest without a fire before them.

Our unfortunate wanderers on the beach, after the wreck, were aware of the latter fact; hence it was that they were never attacked in their nocturnal journeyings.

Like all human beings similarly situated, whose existence depends on their external senses, they possess amazing quickness of eye and ear, tracing a man's footstep with perfect ease, through every description of country, or even on the sea shore, (vide page 57), provided it be sufficiently recent, and that no rain has fallen in the interval. They will guess too, with admirable correctness, how long the individual has passed, and even tell whether the footsteps be those of a black or white man by the nature of the impression on the soil. An instance has been recorded, where a *tracker*, as they are called, at one time pronounced a robber to be knock-kneed, and his conjecture turned out to be quite correct.*

Some of the tribes are also remarkably acute in drawing distinctions between the various classes of white people with whom they come in contact; but the tribe among whom our narrators located, appear not to have yet arrived at this acmé of

* During the administration of Governor Darling, among other admirable regulations, he employed several of the savages, and supplied them with rations and clothing, in order to trace and capture thieves and bush-rangers. The fugitives will often wade up rivulets, or set fire to the grass and bush, in order to throw the natives out of their track, so sensible are they with what vigilant pursuers they have to deal; and provided they have not the means of doing this, they will separate and make off in different directions or routes, in order to baffle and confuse them.

discriminating power, or if they did, they exercised it in a reverse ratio. The manner in which some of the natives evince this power, is frequently very characteristic and amusing.

A resident, once travelling through the woods, accompanied by a white servant, and a party of blacks as porters of his luggage and conductors of his route, halted to bivouack for the night, when his black *employés*, after accommodating him with a fire, kindled one for themselves at a very respectful distance, and by his desire commenced cooking a brace of birds for his and his servant's supper. Feeling his appetite somewhat keen after so long a walk, the servant was sent to ascertain what advance had been made in the roast, who returned smiling to his master with the agreeable and facetious report, that the supper was not only ready for serving up, but also dressed in strict conformity with the established rules of etiquette; for, on observing one bird roasting aristocratically upon a wooden spit, and the other broiling vulgar-wise upon the embers, he inquired the cause of the distinction, and had it satisfactorily cleared up by the cook, who, pointing first at the spitted, and then at the broiling bird, exclaimed, with conscious pride at his ingenuity, "Dat, geppleman (gentleman); dat, poor man."

In common with all savages, revenge with them is never satiated till quenched in the blood of an adversary. Like the Chinese, they are not par-

ticular about the person ; but if a *white* injures or offends them, they generally satisfy their rage upon the first of that colour they can conveniently meet with. In their wild state they know not what it is either to *forget* or *forgive* ; and when once they murder a white, always expect retaliation for it, whatever appearance of friendship the other whites may put on, believing they are yet to suffer, and that only fear or the want of an opportunity prevents a reprisal ; hence, until some of the tribe are killed by the whites, they never consider themselves safe, and they usually continue their murderings until, in retaliation, blood is expiated in blood.*

If an European should incautiously, or in the heat of passion, strike one of the natives, they are sure, at one time or other, to take away the life of the assailant, unless, by a great sacrifice, he satisfies their voracious demands, and thus obtains a truce of pacification, for in their barbarous state they think as little of the life of a *man* as of a *butterfly*. Nor would it be prudent either to show

* Persons who have had an opportunity of obtaining some knowledge of these savages, are of opinion that very many lives might be saved if timely and efficient means were adopted ; for it has been observed that when the various tribes of Australia have been fairly satisfied of their inferior power and strength to contest with the whites, they ever after show a disinclination for hostility.

fear on the one hand, or bluster on the other, as both are alike dangerous ; the best means of escaping is to look and act with a cool deliberation, and endeavouring to impress on their minds that you place the most perfect confidence in them.*

* A fine instance of intrepidity, and of the influence of female power over the minds even of rude savages, occurred in 1826, at Hunter's river, during the period that such atrocities were committed by the New Hollanders and other natives, upon the whites.

The natives around Merton, the residence of Lieutenant Ogilvie, R.N., had remained all along in the most friendly terms with his establishment ; but during his absence from home, were provoked into hostility by a party of soldiers and constables, who had wantonly maltreated them. Mrs. Ogilvie was at home, surrounded by her young family and a few domestics, when the loud and threatening yells of a body of savages, who had surrounded her dwelling, suddenly aroused her attention, and made her summon all her energies to face the impending catastrophe. They had seized upon two constables within a few yards of the door, whom they were shaking by the collars, and reproaching them in the most bitter terms their very imperfect knowledge of the English language would enable them to utter, by way, we suppose, of preliminary to the beating out their brains with their waddies, when Mrs. Ogilvie, rushing fearlessly in among their brandished clubs and poised spears, by the firmness and persuasiveness of her manner, awed and soothed them into sentiments of mercy, and in the course of half an hour they parted with all the members of the establishment on cordial terms ; the leaders of them, however, not forgetting, after exhausting all their friendly hand-shakings and good-byes, to turn half round, rattle their spears, and exclaim in an admonitory manner and tone, " Tell sodja nibba come mebble Massa Ogilvie black."

The natives are naturally inquisitive, and possess a good deal of intelligence, and those of them who have entered partially into civilized life (the number is comparatively but few), have been found to acquire a knowledge of the English language with great facility, as also to read and write with considerable expertness.*

* If their intellectual faculties are thus so far above debasement, how is it, we ask, that the abject animal state in which they live, and their great and glaring deficiency in all the useful mechanical arts, should place them at the very zero of civilization? This is a question for the christian, the politician, and the philanthropist to consider, and it well merits their attention.

After all, perhaps, civilization depends more upon the circumstances under which man is placed, than upon any innate impulse of his own. The natural inclination of man tends to the savage state, or that in which food is procured with the least possible labour; there being something so irresistibly captivating in a wild roaming life of this description, that few who have made the trial ever have a thorough relish for civilized or stationary society again. It appears to be necessity alone that urges mankind to congregate in fixed habitations, and raise their food by the sweat of their brow; for if it could be procured in as easy a way by civilized Europeans as it is by these rude, uncultivated, and barbarous tribes, the European woods and forests would soon abound with creatures quite as idle, and perhaps as rude, if not alike savage, as the natives we have been describing.

There appears to be a degree of force necessary to urge man toward civilization in his primitive, debased state, and cause him to divest himself of the habits which he has acquired. It is

Their quick and hurried movements and gestures seem indeed closely allied to the wild animals of the forest. Many of both sexes, when young, are far from ugly; nay, some of them are tolerably handsome, but the old women are absolute frights, and appear only to want an additional member to render them analogous with the long-tailed fraternity.

They are not over-delicate in their food at any time, but more particularly when hunger presses; grubs, snakes, stinking whales, and even vermin from their persons, will be eagerly eaten up (a remarkable instance of this indelicacy will be given in Mrs. Fraser's narrative); so that like the monkey tribe, when every other resource fails, they pick their breakfast off each other!

In hunting the kangaroo, emu, and opossum, they display great quickness of sight and sagacity, often walking up close to the two former, by dodging from tree to tree, and spearing them before they are aware of the vicinity of their enemy. On passing through a wood, they examine every tree with a hole or hollow in it, and also all the ad-

only when the mind is more enlightened, and reason supersedes animal instinct, that civilization will speedily advance among the community, and this must be effected by the exertions of its individual members; nor can this be reasonably expected, without Divine interposition, to be the work of one generation.

jacent trees, for marks of the opossum's claws ; because this animal often runs up a neighbouring tree, and jumps to the one where the place of their retreat is, in order to avoid being traced. On the claw-marks being discovered, the natives climb up by successive notches cut in the bark to place the great toe in, and reaching the hole, probe it with a long stick, by which, when it reaches to the bottom, they ascertain whether there be an opossum there or not. Supposing that after all they cannot reach the animal with their hands, they cut a hole immediately above it, and they again probe it, in order that it may lower its head, when they catch hold of its tail and snatch it out, and by swinging its head against the trunk, it lies dead at the feet of its enemy in a moment.

Among the very many instances which will be cited, we insert the following, which at once shows how easily their superstitious feelings may be excited. Mr. Cunningham (to whom we make our acknowledgments for the assistance which we have partly received in this chapter and elsewhere from his valuable work,) says, "Some (of the natives) were excessively alarmed on my showing them their face in a glass ; one old man looked so comically grave and terrified that I could not help laughing, and opening my mouth I made a bite at his visionary head, as if going to snap it off, when he gave a sigh and a shiver, turning on one side to avoid the sight, but making no attempt to

run away. I then turned the glass constantly towards his face, whichever way he turned himself, when, as if to hide from the terrible apparition before him, he shut his eyes determinedly, as if he would squeeze them into his head, shivering like a man in an ague-fit all the while, and giving a cautious wink every now and then, to ascertain whether the goblin was gone! And there I stood with smiling lips, and he with chattering teeth, for the space of a minute, until another native smoothed down his fears; but the anxious hurried look and forced horse-laugh he afterwards gave, when taking another peep, showed how little he relished the vision." The Australian tribes, or as they are called, the New Hollanders, differ much from the New Zealanders, who form fixed residences, while the former appear to find amusement by the constant shifting of scene in pursuit of their necessary food, and by the means of their perpetual wars, and the practices of spear hunting, concubinage, and child-murder, they keep down population; obtaining their livelihood thus easily in consequence of their diminutive numbers, by roaming through the woods. They are never driven to the necessity of congregating and supplying their wants by artificial means, like the natives of most of our southern islands.

CHAPTER X.

" List to the journal of my exile !
 The history of my sufferings !
 A treasure useful to my fellow creatures :
 It tells them NEVER TO DESPAIR !
 It teaches them to put their trust
 In that ALMIGHTY POWER DIVINE,
 Who can befriend the wretched outcast ! "

WE have arrived at that period of our labour which demands from us a detail of the voyage, captivity, and sufferings of Mrs. Fraser, as they were communicated to us by her own lips ; and ere we conclude, we shall notice the providential manner by which she was released from, we had almost said, a worse than satanic bondage ; and when we detail the manner of her deliverance, and the instrument by which it was effected, it will, we think, cause even the sceptic to exclaim, "*Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right ?*"

This narrative will show that the Almighty often effects his purposes by an agency, which to our limited comprehension, would appear very unlikely. Who of our captive party would have imagined on the 14th of August, last year, (1836) that on the following day they would be liberated



MRS FRASER.

Widow of Capt. Fraser.

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1875

from thralldom, and that too, by the undaunted courage and persevering efforts of a man who had been banished England as an unworthy cumberer of her soil, and hence transported to a distant colony, and one too, who for breaking the colonial law, had been from thence banished to the penal settlement of Moreton Bay, there to linger out the prime of his life in darkness, chains, and solitude? Such, however, was the fact; and ere we conclude our labour, we shall make some remarks on the life and character of the brave though guilty *Graham*, which, we think, will go to prove that good qualities are frequently latent in the minds of the most abandoned, and that a fit opportunity is only wanting to cause their development.

Well indeed might Mrs. Fraser and her "redeemed" companions be enamoured of the beautiful hymn of Cowper, on the providence of God—than which nothing could have been more applicable to their experience. We give it insertion, not only on account of its applicability, but because we are aware that it is a great favourite with such as are overwhelmed in, or have been delivered from a sea of trouble.*

* The writer of this narrative well remembers the Olney poet; and in the days of his boyhood rambled through the rural groves, whose delightful scenery was the solace of Cowper in the hours of his despondency.

HYMN.

“ GOD moves in a mysterious way
 His wonders to perform ;
 He plants his footsteps in the sea,
 And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
 Of never-failing skill,
 He treasures up his bright designs,
 And works his sov'reign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take :
 The clouds ye so much dread
 Are big with mercy, and shall break
 In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
 But trust him for his grace ;
 Behind a frowning providence,
 He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
 Unfolding ev'ry hour ;
 The bud may have a bitter taste,
 But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
 And scan his work in vain ;
 God is his own interpreter,
 And he will make it plain.”

OLNEY HYMNS.

At the very moment we had concluded our preliminary remarks on the narrative we are about to send forth to the world, a letter came to our hands, which had been written in reply to a communi-

cation to the Lord Mayor, who requested information to be transmitted relative to the fatherless children of the late Captain Fraser.

As this epistolary correspondence is not irrelevant, but rather consonant with our history, we do not hesitate to embody it, and the more readily, because we hope and believe that its circulation will induce many of our readers to contribute to a fund to which the letter has reference, and thereby cause "*the fatherless children to bless them, and the widow's heart to sing for joy.*"

The following is a *verbatim* copy of the letter referred to, from the Rev. Peter Learmouth.

"Manse of Stromness, 1st September.

"MY LORD,

"I hasten to comply with your lordship's kind request, to make you acquainted with the condition and circumstances of the fatherless children concerning whom you write. The eldest is a girl of sixteen years; the other two are boys, the one twelve, the other seven years of age. For nearly two years they have received only £21 for support; and had it not been that they had a little money, when their mother left them, three years ago last May, they must have been long ere now in the greatest destitution. Their money has for some time been exhausted, and they are now subsisting on what they are receiving from the grocers here, on credit.

“ Any sum of money which may be contributed for their support by the charitable and benevolent, will be gladly received ; and I am sure your lordship could not have interested yourself on behalf of a family who have a stronger claim upon the sympathy and benevolence of the christian community. I would humbly suggest to your lordship, that part of the sum of money which may be collected in London, may be reserved for the children of Mrs. Fraser ; and if it be entrusted to me or the Kirk Session of Stromness, due care shall be taken that it be faithfully and judiciously appropriated to their support. In saying this, I do not mean to affect the interest of their mother in any respect, whose heart-rending tale of suffering I fully credit. I would now desire humbly to offer to your lordship my sincere thanks for the interest you have taken in Captain Fraser’s family, who, commended as they have been by the providence of God, to my care, in circumstances so peculiarly appalling, are fully entitled to whatever exertion I can make to promote their comfort and welfare.

“ I am, My LORD,

“ Your lordship’s most humble

“ And obedient servant,

“ PETER LEARMOUTH.”

The reply to this letter, we understand, was, that a considerable sum had already been received ; and a hope was expressed, that as other subscrip-

tions were likely to be transmitted, a fund would be raised sufficient to be of permanent advantage to the children and others for whose benefit it was designed by the benevolent donors.

We feel it incumbent, before we commence our travel again over the same ground, to state to the reader, that although the dates which have already appeared, must of necessity be given in relating the same incidents (which by the bye are strong corroborating proofs), we shall avoid in every instance, as much as possible, that tautology which would be as irksome to our readers as it would be unprofitable to their minds. It will be readily conceded, that persons who are eye-witnesses of the same scene, may be cognizant of objects and occurrences of which others, although present, are not, and *vice versá* ; this fact has been at some time or other verified in the experience of us all.

With respect to the nautical part of the narrative, it may be supposed that Mr. Baxter, from the situation he held, would be better capable of giving information than the captain's widow ; yet even in that respect, as the companion of her husband, she knew and heard of many things of which persons in a subordinate situation would be ignorant. Both Mr. Baxter and Mrs. Fraser, who are the "sheet anchors" on which we rely, have given their details in that simple straightforward style, which is the best voucher for their accuracy ; and where they have narrated the same

facts, the difference has only been in the mode of expression, without in the least degree invalidating the facts themselves. If such trivial deviations were to render a history unworthy of credence, it would extend to that narration which is of all the most important to the human race, although it was penned by the Evangelists themselves.

Having made these preliminary, and we trust, not unimportant remarks, we proceed with our narrative.

THE NARRATIVE OF MRS. FRASER.

She states that the brig Stirling Castle left London on the 22nd of October, which was chartered to Hobart Town with a general cargo, it being the intention of the owners that she should discharge part of her cargo at that port, and then proceed with the remainder of the consignment to Sydney, at which place they ultimately arrived. After remaining at Sydney a considerable time, the captain, her husband, made preparations to proceed to Singapore, in ballast, in order to take in a cargo of colonial produce for the London market; which was in pursuance of the instructions he had received from his owners.*

* Singapore, or Singhapure, is an island in the straits of Malacca, situate on the southern extremity of that peninsula, lat. 1° 17' 22" N., long. 103° 51' 45". It is of an elliptical

Every thing being ready, they recommenced their voyage, preparatory to which they dropped down

form, about 25 to 27 miles in its greatest length from E. to W., 15 miles in its greatest breadth from N. to S., and contains an estimated area of 270 square miles. On the front, and distant about nine miles, is an extensive chain of almost desert islands, the channel between which and Singapore is the grand route of commerce between east and west Asia. The town stands on the south coast, on a point of land near the west end of a bay, where there is a creek or river which is navigable for lighters, nearly a mile from the sea. On the east side of the town there is a deep inlet for the shelter of native boats. The town consists generally of stone-built houses of one and two stories high; but in the suburbs, which are called Campong-Glain, Campong-Malacca, and Campong-China, bamboo huts are erected on posts, the greater part of which stand in stagnant water. On the east side of the harbour, enterprising British merchants have very recently erected substantial and ornamental houses fronting the sea, and presenting a strange contrast to the wretched tenements of the Malays.

The principal rock is red sand-stone, which in some parts changes to a *trebeccia* or *conglomerate*, containing large fragments and crystals of quartz. The whole contiguous group of isles, containing about thirty in number, as well as Singapore, are apparently of a sub-marine origin, and their evulsion probably of no very distant date. Notwithstanding its lowness, marshiness, and high temperature, consequent on its inter-tropical position, Singapore has hitherto proved exceedingly healthy, owing perhaps to its maritime situation.

The Malay annals relate, that in A. D. 1352, Sri Iscander Shah, the last Malay prince of Singapore, being hard pressed by the king of Majipahit in Java, returned to the main land, where he founded the city of Malacca. That the Dutch or

on the 15th of May, to the "Fair-way," which is another name for the place called by Mr. Baxter "Pinchgut Island," (a place perhaps where refractory convicts are sent to perform the penance of *fasting* on account of some trivial transgression.)

At the time the vessel left, the wind was favour-

Portuguese may have settled on the island, is probable from the remains of religious buildings, and other structures, which indicate that it was once thickly inhabited. The settlement of Singapore was first formed on the plan of Sir Stamford Raffles, in February, 1818, and its sovereignty, in its present extent, confirmed to Great Britain, in 1825, by a convention with the King of Holland and the Malay prince of Jalioire. When taken possession of by the British establishment, in 1820, it had been inhabited for eight years, by about 150 Malays, about half of whom were fishermen, and half pirates. In 1832, its population had increased to the wonderful number of 20,917, besides 553 convicts, the military and their followers being 600, making a grand total of 22,000 souls.

This circumstance proves, that if prompt measures are adopted, whether by political bias, religious stimulus, or a desire to civilize, much good may be effected.

The leading merchants, agents, and shopkeepers, &c. are Englishmen, but the great bulk of the citizens are Chinese. There are already an American missionary, and two of the Roman Catholic persuasion; but at present, no place of worship has been erected for the congregations of either: a Romish chapel was however in progress a year ago, and while we are writing, it is no doubt completed. English protestants may perhaps learn an interesting lesson from this fact. The chief staple commodity of the place, is the Aguragar of the Malays,

able, and the crew obedient ; and so indeed they remained, until she struck on the coral reef, when every one appeared to consider himself his own master. The crew, when the tempest ceased, used every exertion, and cut away the masts, in the hope that the vessel would right herself, and change her position : that effect was produced, but not to any serviceable extent.

(*fucussaccharinus* ;) a plant much resembling the fern, and which abounds on the numerous coral shoals around Singapore, and produces in China, from six to eight dollars per petul, in its dry and bulky state. There are about ten sago manufactories at Singapore, which give employment to 200 Chinese manufacturers. The quantity of sago exported from the island, during the year 1834, was 23,100 petuls. The sago is not grown in the island, but brought in its rough state from Borneo. The trade of the island amounted in 1831, to £1,780,994 imports, and the exports to £1,565,157. Gold formed one of the most valuable imports into Singapore ; the principal portion is from Penang, on the coast of the peninsula ; and it is considered superior by far to the metal brought from the other places.

As a commercial port, and a key to the navigation of the seas in which it is situate, we think that this settlement must become one of incalculable importance, possessing as it does already, a trade of £3,000,000 annually. It really appears to be a little Rome, built comparatively in a day !—Compare its present state with what it was ten years ago, and then

“ Look on this picture and on that.”

They have already two periodical journals, which are well conducted. Its inhabitants are infused with a manly and independent spirit, and it may fairly be inferred that trade is but yet in its infancy. Such a circumstance causes us to think that the world is only in its infancy also.

When Mrs. Fraser left the wreck for the long-boat, she preserved, among other articles of provision, a box of jellies and jams, which were of much use to her husband in his then declining state of health.

The narrator proceeds to give a detail of the sufferings which they underwent while beating about on the ocean in the long-boat, the last seven days of which they were without a drop of fresh water, or a morsel of food. She also recapitulates, though with less minuteness than Baxter, the facts connected with beaching the boat, and the dangers they had to encounter on landing.

At the time of this dreadful catastrophe, Mrs. Fraser was in a pregnant state ; and on the fourth or fifth day after they left the wreck, and committed themselves to the care of Providence, the hour of nature's sorrow overtook Mrs. Fraser, and by a premature parturition, she was delivered of a living child, but after gasping a few times, it died. One of the persons on board tore a piece of his shirt from his back, and having wrapped the infant in it, he dropped it over the boat's side into the sea. Happy little voyager !—no sooner had it launched upon the ocean of time, than it closed its eyes and landed in the blessed haven of eternity ! *

* The following lines were composed by the Rev. G. C. Smith, Minister of the Mariners' Church, Wellclose Square, and published in "The Soldiers' and Sailors' Magazine," for Sep-

At the time of this melancholy occurrence the suffering lady was up to her knees in water, the

tember, 1837. As they have been much admired, we feel induced to enlarge their circulation.

On Captain Fraser's Child born in a Boat.

“ Poor Babe ! how tempestuous, how stormy thy pillow ;
Asleep on the surge of the rough mountain billow.

Like the world, all around thee was fearful commotion,
So comfortless toss'd on this life's dreary ocean.

‘ *Born in sin* ’ in a world that refuses a pillow,

‘ No rest ’ for the soul ’ midst the surf of life's billow ;

Confusion, and sorrow, and warfares are waging,

While hurricanes madly around us are raging.

Yet *I* had a bosom, and soft was the pillow,

MY MOTHER provided far off from each billow ;

Her tears and her prayers, and maternal tuition,

Procured me, through grace, all my present fruition.

How brief was *thy* voyage, how rough was thy pillow,

Just launched in the sea, and then borne on a billow ;

Fit emblem of life, with its ten thousand sorrows,

Through sin and the curse in the world's dreary horrors.

How quickly the *haven* of glory thy pillow,

Received thy blest spirit far off from the billow ;

Blood ransom'd by Jesus, through grace so abounding,

The throne of his glory with INFANTS surrounding.

Ah ! *there was a Babe* with a manger his pillow,

A *stable* his birth-place on life's rudest billow ;

In ‘ swaddling clothes ’ wrapt ’ midst infernal commotion,

To sink and to die on life's accurst ocean.

Then Jesus provided for INFANTS a pillow,

In heaven, where storms and the wild raging billow

No more shall distress or alarm, but salvations,

On Abram's bosom sing redeemed of all nations.

boat, as has been stated, being in so leaky a state that it required great exertion to keep her from sinking. She says, that she is unable to account for the extraordinary vigour with which she was able to bear up under this severe calamity she was doomed to be exposed to ; fortunately, however, for her, when the pains of childbirth seized her, she was thrown into a state of temporary insensibility, from which she did not recover for some time, and then she found that she had given birth to a child, which had been so rapidly hurried from a world upon which it had cast only a transient glance.

After they arrived on the beach, and a tent had been prepared for the reception of herself, her invalided husband, and the chief officer (Brown), the captain called all hands together, in order to sing praise to God for their past deliverance, and implore his future protection. He commenced the service with the following hymn, which appears to us to have been exceedingly appro-

There John, a poor *sailor*, with Christ found a pillow,
On the bosom of Jesus, where no tempest or billow
Could rage to disturb his delightful communion ;
There with Christ crucified his soul was in union.
By faith, O my soul, let Christ be thy pillow,
Then ' wave after wave ' and the tempest-toss'd billow
I'll surmount, and I'll conquer hell's wildest commotion,
And triumphantly sail o'er eternity's ocean."

priate, far as they apparently were from all human succour :—

“ Thus far my God hath led me on,
And made his truth and mercy known ;
My hopes and fears alternate rise,
And comforts mingle with my sighs.

Through this wide wilderness I roam,
Far distant from my blissful home ;
Lord, let thy presence be my stay,
And guard me in this dangerous way.

Temptations every where annoy,
And sins and snares my peace destroy ;
My earthly joys are from me torn,
And of an absent God I mourn.

My soul with various tempests toss'd,
Her hopes o'erturned, her projects cross'd ;
Sees every day new straits extend,
And wonders where the scene will end.

Is this, dear Lord, that thorny road,
Which leads us to the mount of God ?
Are these the toils thy people know,
While in this wilderness below ?

’Tis even so—thy faithful love
Doth thus thy children’s graces prove ;
’Tis thus our pride and self must fall,
That Jesus may be all in all.” *

* This beautiful hymn was penned by the late Rev. J. Newton, Rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, Lombard Street ; a gentleman who had been well acquainted with storms and shipwrecks, when he was the wicked and abandoned sailor-boy.

A passage from the scriptures was then read and remarked upon by the faltering lips of the exhausted captain; and urgent as were the calls of nature for food, there were those among his little band who hungered for the bread which never perishes, and thirsted for the well-springs of salvation. It is remarkable how merciful the Almighty was to the only female of the luckless party; for by her own account, we infer that she knew the truth of an old proverb, "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb." Perhaps the infirmities of her husband gave an *impetus* to her exertions; and the hardships and exposures she had undergone for the last three weeks, in some measure divested her of the timidity and scrupulousness which are ever the characteristics of well-educated and delicate females.*

* The writer of this volume has known many instances, where there was a great disparity of age between the husband and wife, who in the hour of affliction have displayed heroism, and manifested unceasing attention, and watched with tenderness over the bed of suffering, ay, for twenty consecutive nights, to administer succour, and wipe the feverish exhalation from the brow of him who had, perhaps, been to her a father and husband—a wise counsellor and a kind protector. Well may we exclaim, when such undeviating attention is paid,

“Lovely woman is a treasure,” &c.

When writing a narrative of sorrow and suffering, while we may be allowed to excite the kindest sympathies of the reader—ours is not merely a sketch of *fancy and feeling*—but of *life*



The whole company being famished from the want of fresh water, more, perhaps, than for food, they all sallied forth for the purpose of supplying both, but not returning so soon as Mrs. Fraser had hoped or expected, she was induced by her husband's incessant thirst to go forth herself, and the stratagem she used was as ingenious as her effort was enterprising. Walking along the beach, beside cliffs which the lashing of the sea had rendered almost perpendicular, she saw a shelf about fourteen feet high, from the edge of which dribbled fresh water. How was a weak and delicate female to reach this? Invention being the offspring of necessity, she walked on until she found crevices and fissures in the rock, by which she was enabled by great exertion to climb to the shelf, and being provided with a piece of rag she spread it thereon,

and reality; we profess to give "a plain and unvarnished tale," untinged by high-flown romance on the one hand, or a mawkish sentimentality on the other. While we pay a tribute of respect to a lady who was "*faithful unto death*," in her attention to the man of her early affection, we gladly refer our lady readers to a recently published work on the "*Kindness of Women*," written by the prolific pen of Thomas Haynes Bayly.

"His was the dearest, sweetest theme
That fancy wild could ever dream—
'T was praising lovely woman!"

No doubt the fair sex will shortly canonize this eloquent and gallant champion.

leaving its corner to hang down, to which she placed her mouth and thus quenched her thirst ; and when that was slaked, she descended with the saturated fragment of a garment, and wrung its contents into the mouth of her famished husband ; but not before some of the less fortunate part of the crew had attempted to divest her of her prize. The discovery she had made turned out to be an important one.

After the natives had continued to supply the crew with fish for a time, and their stock of clothes being nearly exhausted, the former manifested signs of hostility, which raised unpleasant apprehensions in the mind of Captain Fraser, as his frequent previous voyages in that latitude had caused him to be aware of the deceitful and sanguinary character of the New Hollanders. A consultation was held, at which the captain presided. He exhorted them to stick together, whatever might be their ultimate fate, as separation would only enhance the danger of all. To this advice, at first there seemed no objection, but at length a difference of opinion arose—some were for getting as many fish as possible, and that speedily, and leave the beach in the night, from a knowledge that the savages seldom commit their depredations in the hours of darkness, from the dread of coming into contact with one of the spirits, of whom, in the hours of darkness, they appear to stand in awe. There

were among the party, those who said they would prefer anything to falling into the hands of the natives, whether it were starvation or drowning.

Our fair narrator then details the separation of the party, and the division of the fire-arms and ammunition, so much in the manner described by Baxter, that we purposely avoid giving the recital. It has already been stated, that before Darge and his companions separated from the captain, they turned the long-boat keel uppermost on the beach, when a large water-snake was attached to the bottom of it, more than two yards long, which was equally divided between them, and was deemed a delicious repast. After the men had gone away a short time, the natives came down in greater numbers, and more frequently than before, and they also evinced greater signs of hostility; a plain proof that numbers cause them to stand in some degree of awe.*

Although the captain had lost a multitude of counsellors, perhaps he had not been divested of much wisdom; for the sequel proved, that the party who abruptly left him, fared no better than those who remained behind. This consolation yet

* Perhaps it is from this principle, that when they were made captives, they were divided one to each tribe, to prevent any communication with each other. A conversation Mrs. Fraser had with her husband, perhaps, gave rise to a jealousy which was the cause of his death.

remained, however, which was, that a faithful wife, an attached relative, and an intelligent chief officer, were his companions ; and after many cogitations they at length agreed to proceed as early as possible from Torres Straits toward Moreton Bay.*

* *Torres Straits* is a very dangerous passage, which separates the north coast of New Holland from Passua or Little Guinea. The course recommended by Captain Flinders for passing through these straits, is by entering the reefs at Murray's Island, by which route a ten days' passage will carry a ship past all dangers ; but as the space between Wreck Reef and Murray's Island is strewn with *low coral reefs*, many of which have been discovered since the publication of Captain Flinders' charts, and of which the greater number have only been recently seen ; it cannot, therefore, be called a safe navigation. The route called the inner passage was first pursued by Mr. Cripps, of the brig *Cyclop*, bound from Port Jackson to Bengal, in 1812, and was followed by Lieutenant Jeffries, of the hired armed vessel *Kangaroo*, in 1815 ; but a safer route has since been pointed out by Captain King. The navigation of these and all the neighbouring seas, is proverbially attended with danger. All the low islands in the South Pacific *seem to have for their base a reef of coral rocks*, generally dispersed in a circular form.

Baxter describes the Eliza Reef as of the shape of a horse-shoe ; but Captain Green, of the *Mediterranean Packet*, considers it more like a semicircle inclined to the oblong ; but both agree as to the concavity of its centre.

The middle space is often occupied by a lagoon : the sand is mixed with pieces of broken coral, and other marine substances ; proving that such islands have been originally formed by these coral rocks, which are inhabited, and according to some, created by *polyipi*, and afterwards augmented and elevated by

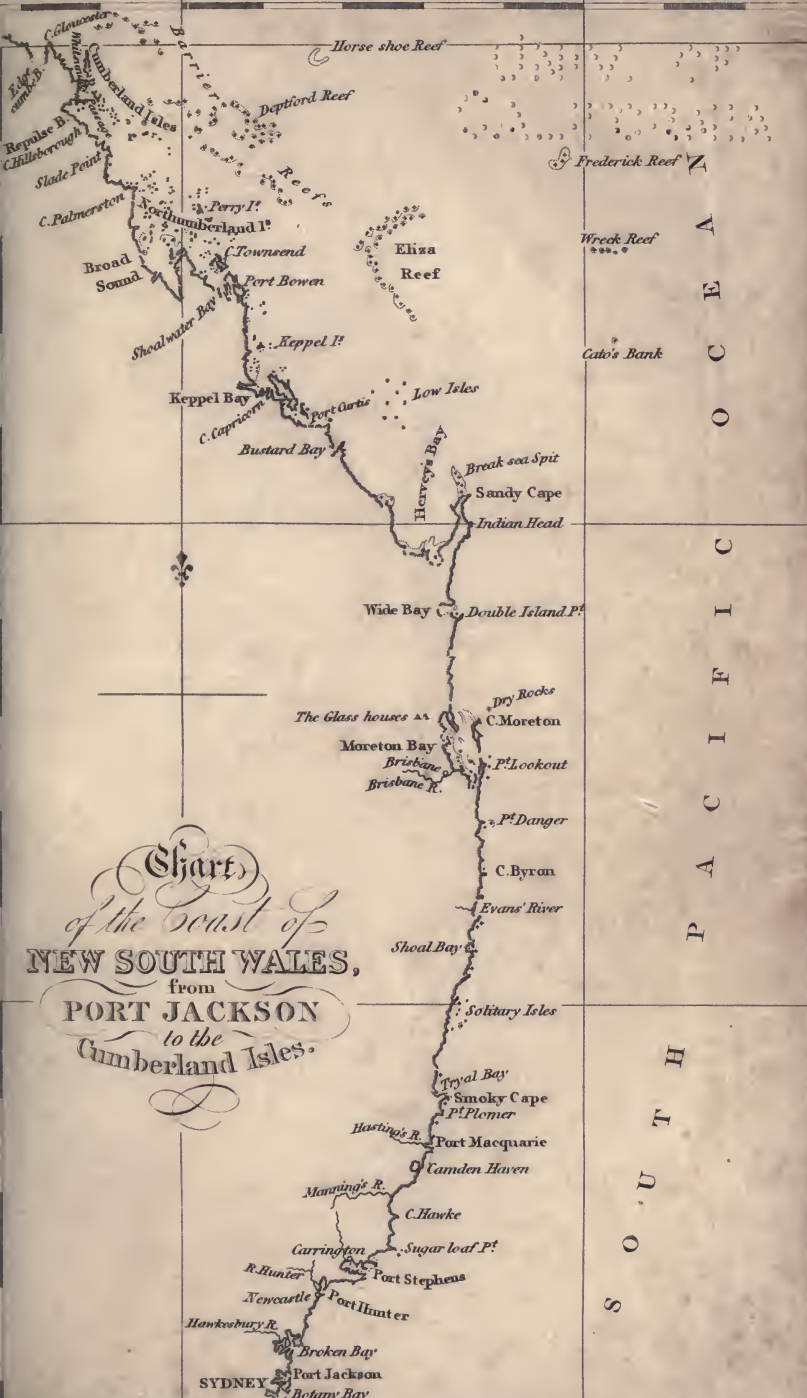


Chart
of the Coast of
NEW SOUTH WALES,
 from
PORT JACKSON
to the
Cumberland Isles.

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Mrs. Fraser describes, as well as her memory will serve her, the alarm and consternation which they experienced when the natives first came down upon them, and instances several facts, which go to show the predatory disposition of these marauding savages. She says, that when they commenced their depredations, they broke the valuable nautical instruments to pieces, and took the fragments away fixed in their hair, and other parts of their person,

the slow accumulation of light bodies drifted to them by the sea.

The reefs around New South Wales appear to have been formed in the same manner, and rise like perpendicular walls from a very deep bottom. Such structures must owe their origin to the animals themselves, unless we should advance a new doctrine, that they grow by a vegetation resembling that of *fuci*, and that the polypi found in them are analogous to those which take up their abode on herbs and trees, a theory to which the aborescent appearance of some corals, and the fungus forms of others, give some countenance.

The reefs render the navigation of this ocean exceedingly dangerous. In some of its seas these rocks reach the surface, while in others they lie dangerously concealed, having over them (as is the case with *Eliza Reef*) only a few feet of water. Woe to the mariner, who, in consequence of unacquaintance with the seas, or the power of the currents, gets entangled amongst the pointed spires of this "sub-marine city."

The intelligent Captain Cook was neither able to foresee nor avoid such dangers. It happened at one time, by a singularly fortunate accident, that the point of a rock that had pierced his vessel, was broken off, and by sticking in the place, and acting as a plug, saved it from destruction!

by way of ornament as well as of conquest. Baxter having given up several articles which were demanded from him, is said to have had a severe struggle in order to save a brooch, in which was inclosed the hair of his aunt; but the attempt which he made at concealment infuriated the natives to such an extent, that he received a severe thrashing from the *waddies* of his assailants, who, as a matter of course, deprived him of his favourite ornament.*

The apprehensions of the remaining party having been excited in no inconsiderable degree by the menacing conduct of the natives, they at length agreed to leave the inhospitable spot, and travel along the beach with Providence for their guide.

* The writer has had the pleasure of an interview with Mr. Baxter's aunt, whose hair he so highly prized. Before he arrives at the end, the reader will be indulged with one of her poetic effusions, addressed to *Captain James Fraser*, which he thinks will prove that the muse does not confine herself to the sylvan shades in the *western* parts of the metropolitan suburbs, but that she sometimes takes a flight to the marine region between Wapping and the Isle of Dogs.

CHAPTER XI.

James.—Dare you follow me, love, as you were wont?

Eliza.—Dare I!—yes; to death! to death! In life and death, I will be with thee!

James.—This way, love. Courage! we soon may gain some refuge. Our journey has been a stormy one, but Heaven will aid us! I only grieve, dear, that through me you are an out-cast!

Eliza.—Hush!—deserted as we are, and penniless, in the wanderer's home we shall have the exile's solace—the providence of God, who ever aids the destitute, and soothes the wretched.

MONCRIEFF.

THE captain and his wife, as well as his faithful companions, Baxter and Brown, and the other persons named in a former part of the narrative, now commenced their journey, taking with them as much provisions as they could procure, and other portable articles which might be useful. Owing to the debility of Captain Fraser, it was agreed that he, Mr. Brown, and our fair narrator, should continue to walk slowly behind, while Baxter and the other men should proceed, in order to discover and halt at some proper resting-place, where they should overtake them. The three persons already alluded to, had not been left above

an hour, before they were followed and attacked by a party of the natives, who had been in the habit of supplying them with fish, &c., while they were encamped on the beach. They demanded some articles, which, after a little hesitation, were delivered to them ; but without inflicting any heavy corporal punishment, they suddenly left them, and returned to plunder the deserted tent. It appeared evident (so thought the survivors), that the natives were loth to part with them ; by gestures, of an apparently amicable kind, they endeavoured to entice them to return, and at the same time showed them by signs, that they would fall in with other tribes who would spear, or otherwise ill-treat them. When they came up, their first attack was made on the Captain, who, although feeble, made some resistance, for which he received a severe incised spear wound on one of his cheeks. They afterwards divested them of every article of apparel, and the sex of Mrs. Fraser did not exempt her from this revolting exposure, as little as it shielded her from the weight of their waddies. This appeared too much for the enfeebled mind of Captain Fraser to bear. In the moment of dispondency he said, " We had better give ourselves up at once, and consent to return with them." They, however, proceeded on their miserable journey.

Subsequent to this, they fell in with another tribe, who came down upon them vociferating

yells which caused the hearts of the fugitives to tremble within them. It then became apparent that resistance would be vain, and Captain Fraser renewed his request that his little band should give themselves up quietly, and put their trust in God, who alone could deliver them. His party then joined hands in assent to the dreadful proposal, there being indeed no alternative ; at the same time they renewed their pledge of fidelity to each other, whatever might be their future lot. Captain Fraser took the momentary opportunity which presented itself, of cautioning and instructing them how to act, as he considered that passive obedience would have the most likely effect of ameliorating their condition.

On the near approach of the tribe, Captain Fraser made a signal to an old man with an amazing long beard, who he thought was a chief, and signified by signs that he wanted to confer with him.* The grotesque figure approached him

* It is very much doubted whether the natives on this barbarous coast have any chiefs; and our narrators state, that they never beheld any distinction in the tribes to which they were united; they had all things in common, and the men seemed to have no control over each other. This circumstance, perhaps, is the most insuperable bar to their civilization, and tends to retard their exaltation from their barbarous and debased condition. It is said (and experience has proved its truth), that the first symptom of advancement in a savage body, is the establishment of chiefs, either elected or hereditary, to whom all

with an air of much dignity, and laid hold of Captain Fraser's chin, and then he rubbed his hands up and down his naked person ; finally, he looked into his eyes with a penetrating scrutiny, after which he uttered a violent scream, which made the rocks echo, and then made joyful gesticulations to the tribe to which he belonged, and who had halted at a little distance, to watch what was going on with an apparently anxious curiosity ; in fact, wonder and amazement seemed to pervade their minds. After the old man, another of the tribe, whose bearing was more lofty than some of his fellows, approached, and subjected Mrs. Fraser, Brown the chief officer, and Baxter, to the same ordeal which their leader had undergone ; but on this occasion no violence was used toward either of the unfortunate captives.

After the natives had thus far satisfied their curiosity, the *scrutineers* withdrew to their tribe, with whom they held a long conference, of the nature of which of course the narrators were ignorant, but the acts which followed pretty clearly proves that they were settling between themselves

pay submission, and to whose protection they trust their persons and properties. But here, no such institution exists ; might alone appears to constitute right ; and as, consequently, the weak and industrious have no protection against the strong and lawless, they have no inducement to accumulate that which might draw down violence upon their persons.

as to which of the party should become the property of the sub-divided tribe.

At the conclusion of the conference, the savages approached them in small numbers, and each took away one of the men into the bush, but they laid no hand on Mrs. Fraser, who was left alone on the beach, near to which she remained all that day and night, and until nearly sun-set on the following day, when she beheld a great number of naked female savages approaching her, while she was in quest of oysters and fresh water. When they came near, the unfortunate lady had her arms laid across her bosom, to shield her person as much as possible from the fierce oblique rays of the setting sun, which had a very powerful effect, of course, upon a delicate female so recently denuded of her clothing. Her position and destitute state caused derision and mirth to these heartless brutes, and after some fierce, shrill yells, they one and all began to gather handfuls of wet salt sand from the beach, and throw all over her person, until (to use her own expression) she was completely *stuccoed* all over; and the sand being of an adhesive quality, caused an excoriation of the skin, which became in a short time excruciating almost beyond endurance.

The female savages, however, exercised some forbearance, as they did not maltreat her by any further act of violence. They eventually all went into the bush. When she arrived there, she saw a

woman who had two children, one an infant sitting across her neck, and the other walking by her side. This poor creature was an invalid, afflicted with painful and loathsome ulcers, from her right shoulder to her hip joint. It fell to the lot of Mrs. Fraser at first to attend to this woman, and as she used every effort to assuage her sufferings, the poor savage evinced a good deal of compassion; she, however, did not appear to suffer acute pain. Such was the scarcity of provision at this time, that the poor invalid actually ate the vermin which preyed upon her excoriated flesh, and tried to persuade her nurse to do the same! As a proof that this wild, untutored being possessed a sense of gratitude, she always interposed as much as she was able whenever Mrs. Fraser was attacked by the other natives, but in her feeble state she could not always prevent sufferings the most horrible, and insults the most revolting; to these she was the more subjected, as she had to go out into the wood, as we shall show by and by, to collect wood and water for the tribe.

Mrs. Fraser gives an affecting anecdote relative to the afflicted woman just alluded to:—In the middle of the day, when the flies and insects were busy, she used to get her to cover her up with *leaves*, in order to shield her sores from the stinging of their fangs and probosces. This circumstance reminded Mrs. Fraser of the nursery tales she had read when a child; and the invalid and her two

infant children reminded her of the story of "The Children in the Wood," who were thus covered by Robin-redbreasts; hence she gave her the name of *Robina*, and addressed her by it all the time she remained in her company. When she was out, wood-gathering, Mrs. Fraser occasionally met with Baxter in her path, he being in the same pursuit as herself, but they dared not remain together, for fear of being detected. On one occasion, when she met him, she said, "John, how are you getting on?" He replied, "You need scarcely ask that: look at me, and see what a state my body is in!" After she had been some time in the bush, part of the crew were taken across the lake, each with a different tribe, and they all went in a contrary direction. Her opinion is, that they went either upon a hunting or fishing excursion.

After four days' separation, she met with her husband accidentally in the bush, where he was gathering wood for his tribe. At the time they met, he was dragging a branch of a tree after him, as he was unable to carry it, his back being so dreadfully excoriated by the heat of the sun. When they came in contact, the first thing she said was, "Why did you leave me on the beach?" He replied that he could not help it, as the savages dragged him away from her by force, but he thought every moment, that she (Mrs. F.) was coming after him. After a little more conversation, he said imploringly, "Eliza, wilt thou help me with this tree?" She replied, "How can I do it

with such a load as I have on my shoulders?" His reply was, "Because thou art now stronger than me!" She then intreated him to continue where he was, while she went and kindled her fire, after which she would return and assist him with his burden. While they were thus conferring together, she beheld several natives, which very much alarmed her, and apprised her husband of the fact, as she could not conceal from him the apprehension which she felt, that one or both of them would be subjected to severe punishment. He turned to her and placidly exclaimed, "My dear, they will not meddle with me!"

In order to avoid their observation as much as possible, she laid down her load, and concealed herself behind a huge tree, from which, however, she could see what was passing. She was well aware of the dispositions of the natives, and the probability that they would be angry at seeing her husband in conversation with her, instead of conveying the wood to the tent; as it was a portion of the tribe Captain Fraser belonged to, who appeared in sight.

The natives remained stationary for a considerable time, and engaged in an affray with each other, all the parties being much excited and out of temper, which circumstance she accounts for on the supposition that they had been on a fishing excursion which proved unsuccessful. It appeared by the concurrent statement of all the narrators, that the ferocity of their tempers is abated or

increased, in proportion to the success they meet with in their hunting and fishing excursions, as they were less rigid in their demands and more complaisant when they had an abundant supply of provisions, which to say the truth, was very seldom the case.

After the contention between the jarring party was terminated, the greater part of them withdrew, leaving three or four, who walked in the direction toward Captain and Mrs. Fraser. They suddenly stopped, when one of the party poised his spear, which he hurled at Captain Fraser, and the deadly weapon struck him near the shoulder blade, and passing through his body, came out at his breast! Mrs. Fraser then darted from her hiding place and exclaimed, "O Jesus of Nazareth! can I stand this?" With the boldness of a frantic woman, she ran and drew the accursed weapon from the body of her dying husband, but no blood flowed from the wound at the time. The captain fell immediately, and blood then flowed in copious streams from his mouth, nose, and ears, and before the current produced suffocation, he faintly articulated, "O Eliza! I am gone!"—these were the last words uttered by the unfortunate victim of barbarian vengeance.*

* Mrs. Fraser says, that immediately after this, she felt her brain swim, and a sound in her head like the ringing of bells, and fell to the ground completely petrified and bereft of

After the death of her husband, she considers that the cruelties inflicted upon her were of a more frequent and severe nature, than they were during his life-time ; but whether that be so or not, her mental suffering must have been augmented in a ten-fold degree, the husband of her youth having been slain, and she a captive in the power of his murderers. One thing is quite certain from her recital, viz. that more severe manual labour was exacted from her, and one of her degrading employments was to climb the high trees, by means of cutting notches in the bark, in the manner described in a preceding chapter. Being unused to so dangerous an exercise, of course she was slow in her movements, and awkward in the use of the sharp instrument put into her hands for the purpose of incising the bark, to make *scotches* for her feet. In order to make her quicken her pace, these worse than blood-hounds followed her,

sense. How long she remained on the spot in a state of insensibility she is unable to say, but by the sun she knows that several hours must have elapsed before she came to herself, and then she found that she was at the encampment (if it deserves the appellation) in the midst of her own tribe, which was only a short distance from the spot where the captain her husband was slain. She could never learn to a certainty what became of the corpse of her beloved husband, but she agrees with the opinion of Baxter on that subject, viz. that his body was laid in the place alluded to by him, and which was resorted to on evenings when the natives gambolled and made merry.

and applied fire-brands to her person, in order to make her climb with greater facility, or more perhaps to enjoy the pleasure of exciting her alarm, and glorying in her writhings. Besides this, the ulterior object they had in view, was that she should bring down honey from the combs, which were lodged in the branches, as in that continent it appears the bees lodge their nectar on the summits of trees of great altitude. In case the combs were honeyless, she was instructed to throw them down, that the natives might pick out and eat the maggots or other insects which had tenanted them. She stated, that when after immense labour and great risk she descended a tree, without any success, her task-masters demanded that she should breathe in their faces, in order that they might be satisfied that she had not partaken of any of the sweet food—if this had been found to be the case, she apprehends that she should have met with a severe punishment. The unfortunate lady attempted to cast a veil over part of her sufferings, which in truth were the most revolting of all, and which were explained to us by Baxter, who was a frequent eye-witness of them: but the same delicacy which restrained her tongue, restrains our pen from describing them. The mere conception of the pangs she must have endured, both bodily and mentally, strikes us with amazement that human nature could exist under them, and almost freezes our blood.

A system of espionage was sometimes adopted

when she went into the bush in search of wood and water, lest she should by chance pick up any thing to eat instead of carrying it to the tribe; hence it was that a child often followed her to watch her movements. Had she been fortunate enough to have picked up a disabled bird, or dead quadruped, she considers that she should not have been able to elude the prying eye of her young chaperon, for even the children of these tribes are remarkable for their cunning and shrewdness. However, in this respect she was never fortunate enough to have an opportunity of putting them to the test.

The patience with which her husband endured his captivity, is narrated by his relict with a degree of religious enthusiasm. At times, when the tribe were kinder to him than usual, the captain appeared to be apprehensive of treachery, and from this cause he gave offence. No doubt but he had read or heard of those barbarians, who make a point of fawning and caressing the human being whom they intend for the next sacrifice. On the day before his death they gave him an extra quantity of fish, which greatly surprised him. At first he refused to eat it until he had finished his task of wood-gathering. This circumstance Mrs. Fraser says gave great umbrage to some of the tribe, and she felt fearful that they would resent in some way the inattention of the captain to their act of kindness. Induced by this fear, an appre-

hension, which alas! was but too well grounded, she persuaded her tottering partner to comply with their wishes, to which he reluctantly assented.

In another part of her narrative she gives an account of the sufferings and awful end of Mr. Brown. At the time of this melancholy occurrence their number was reduced to six, and they were divided among as many tribes, or perhaps, more properly speaking, the sub-divided parts of one tribe; for although feuds, strife, and bloodshed often occurred among themselves, they nevertheless kept up a community of interests whenever any prize fell into their hands, whether their colour was red or black.*

* It would seem that they often invade the rights, and commit depredations upon each other; and one species of plunder which is most frequent, and in which they seem to glory, is robbing each other of their women. This is not done by stratagem, or enticement, or by force, when the parties meet or pass each other in the passes or ravines in the bush; such a capture would entail an awful penalty upon the inamorato who had the temerity to engage in such a daring enterprize.

This species of theft is generally committed in the night time, when the two parties assemble for the purpose of a robbery, in which exercise both sexes join. It is now that the gay *red* Lothario casts a wistful eye upon one of the sable ladies of the tribe with whom he is carousing, and if he can elude the lynx eyes of his companions, and bear her off, the prize is deemed a lawful one, and he may detain the lady as long as he pleases, which is seldom of long duration, for these fickle-minded beings soon yield to satiety, and the woman is sent back to her kindred and friends.

Mrs. Fraser appears to have been in the company of Mr. Brown on the morning before he suffered, when they conversed together upon the barbarous death of the captain; and exhausted as his strength was, he seemed determined, if possible, in some way or other, to be revenged for the death of their mutual friend. He remarked to her, that for the last few days the savages had been extremely kind to him, at which he expressed a great surprise—indeed, from what he had seen of their conduct towards others, he was far from drawing a favourable inference from this apparent sudden change of conduct; for poor Brown had been treated with great harshness; indeed the severity of his labour and want of nourishment had reduced him to a skeleton. Mrs. Fraser advised him to try as far as possible to comply with their

When one tribe thus robs another, it may well be thought that persons of such revengeful and diabolical dispositions do not fail to make reprisals upon those who have invaded their rights; this they do with a vengeance, and they have been known to carry off five females during one corrobory. It would seem that the *fair* New-Hollander inherits a portion of that romantic spirit which forms a feature in the character of some of our British ladies, who emphatically declare that there is something quite delicious in an elopement, and a trip to Gretna-Green is delightful. Be this as it may, they are never known to sound an alarm when borne off upon the backs of their lovers; the inference therefore is, that they are consenting parties.

wishes, and endeavoured to cheer his drooping spirits by a hope of escape. After this short, and we may say stolen, *tête-à-tête*, Mrs. Fraser was directed by her sable mistresses to go and fetch wood from the bush, in order to cook the dainties they expected on the anticipated return of a hunting party; and the performance of this duty took her nearly two hours.* On her return to the bivouack, she found

* It may excite astonishment in the minds of some of our readers, how it happened that in such an interminable forest of wood, it should be a matter of such difficulty and toil for the natives to procure a sufficient quantity of fuel: we therefore explain the fact. In the northern coast of New Holland there is abundance of brush or underwood, but that is not suited to the purpose of a substantial and perpetual fire. The trees, for the most part, are of amazing height and girth, so that the natives are unable to fell them with their mocoos. There are growing in this wilderness of thorns and briars, several species of the pine tree, one of which, called *sapphirus*, being of a very resinous nature, easily ignites, and therefore suits their purpose. The manner in which these stately trees are levelled with the ground is curious. When one of them is discovered, the native or the captive, as the case may be, cuts a deep notch near the root, when he rubs two pieces of iron-bark together, and which when ignited, he applies to the flowing sap of the wounded tree, which immediately takes fire, and as the juices flow to the base of the trunk, the fire thus kindled receives constant supplies, until at length a separation takes place between the branches and the root, by the tree falling with a crash, which makes the surrounding rocks echo. After the tree is thus felled, the branches are lopped off by the use of the moco, and dragged or carried to the camp for use. This was the last manual

two of the red tribe in earnest conversation with the male part of that whose servant she was; this being a circumstance very unusual, excited both surprise and alarm in her mind, and gave rise to many very unpleasant conjectures—indeed, she knew not what to think; but from the gestures and manner of the savages, it struck her that a catastrophe was near at hand; and in this supposition she was correct. Mr. Brown, at this time, was in a state both of exhaustion and dejection; however, he cast his intelligent eye upon her, as if to inquire whether she was aware of the serious cogitations of the savages. Seeing him much agitated, she by signs endeavoured to soothe his mind, as well as to remind him, that “*in heaven there is rest.*” After a debate which lasted nearly an hour, the natives arose and went up to Brown, who was reclining on the ground near the place where the conference had been held. They mo-

and degrading employment of the lamented Captain Fraser. The bark or rind of the sapphirus is stripped off in shreds, and the most delicate fibres are twisted into a sort of twine, of which the natives make their capacious fishing nets; and the more solid strips constitute the “fiendish fire-brands,” which are used for the double purpose of light and torture! Many a luminary of this description did our narrators pluck from the prostrate pine-tree, which afterwards was applied to their naked persons by their merciless and remorseless tormentors. Mercy! remorse! these are alike alien to the coast, and the natives which inhabit it.

tioned him to arise from his resting-place, but either from exhaustion or fear, or perhaps both combined, he did not obey the summons. Two of the natives then laid hold of each arm, and in order to induce compliance, they signified that they were going to take him to a repast! Mrs. Fraser attempted to accompany the party, whereupon they seemed very much offended, and chastised her severely for attempting to pry into their secret, and then drove her back to the encampment, where she remained about two hours in a state of mind she says she will ever be unable to describe.

Two hours having elapsed, the tribe of miscreants returned, and after a short parley, the women joining in the discussion, some of them conducted her through the same ravine, the declivity of which Brown had descended. She had not proceeded with her brutal conductors more than a mile, before she arrived at an open space or grass plat with which she was familiar; and on her eyes following the direction of the pointed finger of the exulting savages, she saw the hapless Brown bound hand and foot to a tree, and a slow fire kindled at his feet, where he was writhing in severe agony. She became as it were riveted to the spot, (petrified is the term Mrs. Fraser used,) and for some time incapable of motion or articulation. When she recovered her consciousness, the tortured

victim besought her, if ever she reached her native land, to make his relations aware of his dreadful sufferings, and his barbarous end! A violent stupor came over her, so that she is unable to tell the length of his endurance, but previously she had heard him praying to that God whose word he had been in the daily habit of reading, so long as he had a Bible in his possession—and when it was lost, he derived consolation from the precious promises which he had extracted from it, and treasured up in his mind.

Whether the body was only partially or entirely consumed, the fair narrator will not undertake to say, as she never afterwards beheld the dreadful spot where the spirit of her husband's friend took its flight. Providence had ordained that she should be spared the pangs which must have resulted from her treading the soil upon which the blood of her husband had been shed, and sprinkled with the ashes of him who had been the friend of both. The hour of deliverance was at hand, and it arrived too at a period when "*her flesh and her heart failed her.*"

In speaking in general terms of these barbarians, Mrs. Fraser says that they all delight in cruelty, and she felt it exercised on her severely, as several bruises from waddies, incisions by spears, and burns from torches, which she will ever bear on her person, would abundantly testify. Whether

from jealousy because attentions of a diabolical nature were paid her by the men, she knows not ; but the women, with the exception of *Robina*, were incessantly annoying her, in every way which persons skilled in the art of tormenting could devise. They even hated to behold any one do her a little act of kindness ; and sometimes when the entrails of a fish, or a piece of a snake, have been thrown to her for her meal, some of the women would run up and deprive her of her repast. She endeavoured to bear up and endure all the hardships imposed, and contumely poured upon her, in order to avoid a death of lingering agony ; and sometimes her spirit was buoyed with the hope that God in his mercy would “*deliver her from the hands of blood-thirsty and cruel men.*” To use her own emphatic words she says, “The stories which we have read in our childhood, and the representations of savage life we have seen in the theatres in our riper years, are mere trifles and faint representations, when compared with the facts of which I and my unfortunate companions were eye-witnesses. When I first beheld the countenances of these savages, and heard their frightful yell, I expected nothing but destruction—although my life has been spared, I never expected to witness the scenes I have beheld, and the abominable insults I have undergone. To me it appears, that as to decency of conduct, and sensibility of mind,

there is no difference between them and the beasts of the forest, or if there be, it consists in the latter being less ingenious in their cruelty.

“ ‘ Like brutes they live, like brutes they die.’ ”*

* These barbarians were not satisfied with applying lighted torches to the persons of their victims, and sometimes igniting a wisp of resinous bark and casting it upon them when they were asleep ; but in order to have sport on *gala* days, they would take them into a canoe, and throw them overboard, for the purpose of exulting in their struggles to save themselves from drowning. This was her fate, as well as that of the surviving officers and crew of her deceased husband.

* * * Since the preceding pages were committed to the press, the Author has received from the narrators several interesting particulars connected with their captivity, which they omitted to state when giving a general detail of their sufferings ; these, and any others which may come to hand, will be reserved, and form a miscellaneous chapter hereafter.

CHAPTER XII.

“ Mark me !—

Hear the last of our sea-sorrows ;
Here on this island we've arrived.”

SHAKESPEARE.

“ The sorrows of death compassed me, the pains of hell gat hold upon me ; I found trouble and sorrow. * * *
I was brought low, and He helped me ; I was greatly afflicted.”

PSALM CXVI.

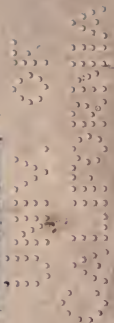
SOME time before the escape of Baxter, Mrs. Fraser was taken across the bay, where she located with her tribe for several weeks ; and it was a part of her duty to attend upon Robina, the afflicted female, to whose dreadful sufferings allusion has already been made. This change of situation seems to have inspired her with hope that she would, sooner or later, find an opportunity of escaping from her miserable thralldom. She also rejoiced in the midst of her afflictions, that she was removed from the locality of a scene where she had beheld the tortures and death of her affectionate husband, and Mr. Brown, his steady and attached friend. She states, that she felt great consolation at times, from a conversation which she

had had with Carrallis the black steward, before he parted company with her, some time previous to her removal to the other side of Wide Bay. That faithful negro assured her that he would embrace the first favourable opportunity to escape from the savages, and proceed through the bush, and if possible reach the British settlement at Moreton Bay. When the difficulty and danger of such an enterprise were suggested to him, he said, that owing to his being a man of colour the natives placed more confidence in him, and did not keep so sharp a look-out upon his wanderings as they did after the white captives. He pledged himself in the most solemn manner, that should he be fortunate enough to escape, he would take the earliest opportunity of giving such information to the government authorities there, as should tend to release his mistress. In that promise she confided, for he had given her many proofs that a sympathizing heart may be encased by a sable skin. After she had been at her new encampment about a month or five weeks, she cannot say which, for her bewildered mind had lost the power of calculation, the hour of her deliverance drew nigh, in consequence of the ingenuity and daring enterprise of the convict Graham, with whose name the reader has already been made acquainted. It appears by the statement made to her by Graham, that he fell in with a native with whom he had been acquainted during the time he was a fugitive in the bush, and to whom

he gave the *soubriquet* of *Gormondy*, owing to his being a most inveterate gormandizer. This fellow was an amazingly powerful man, and few of his tribe cared much to offend him. Although he did not stand in the character of a chief with them, yet he formed a useful adjunct to their party, as he was a mighty man of war as well as a mighty eater. Having made this man his friend, he confided to him the nature of his mission to a certain extent, by representing that he was in quest of a white female who was related to him, and as she was ill-treated by the tribe she was with, he told Gormondy if he would rescue her, he (Graham) would reward him with mocoës, tomahawks, and other instruments; and as an additional inducement, he was told that if he got her away and she should be loth to leave the bush, the female should become his exclusive companion. Thus encouraged, he undertook to work her deliverance. After this preliminary was settled, Graham was ordered to proceed to a place where he had appointed to meet with Gormondy, and he started a long time before Lieutenant Otter and his soldiers followed in the boat, it having been previously arranged that the harbinger should make a particular mark on the sandy beach where the boat was to halt. On its arrival, he was to proceed with Gormondy from the hiding place, in order to carry their scheme into effect if possible; and should it be necessary, he was to fire a pistol or blow a trumpet, with

which he was provided, and then the soldiers were to proceed in the direction of the sound. In order to avoid suspicion, Gormondy was to appear hostile to Graham for a time, the latter on this occasion being well dressed, in order to excite their cupidity, and they soon divested him of his clothing. He had also provided himself with trinkets of various kinds, as well as some clippings of tin, of which they are very fond, and use as ornaments for the head; these he distributed to them voluntarily, and intimated that he could get them a quantity more of the same articles. It was then proposed that they should have a corrobbery on the occasion, which was agreed to. It had been planned between Graham and Gormondy that during the dance the former was to go down a vista which led to the water-side, and this he did without exciting any suspicion in the minds of the natives. The latter was then to watch his opportunity and run off with Mrs. Fraser, to whom it had been made known by her deliverer, that a plan had been laid for her rescue, and that she was to be placed in a canoe if possible, and cross the lake to an island where an officer and file of men lay in ambush.

The unfortunate lady could not describe to us the sensations with which her mind was affected at this period—hopes and fears alternately arose, but the latter she says preponderated. She was enabled, however, at some intervals, to trust in God, and hope for a release; but as to the manner



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in which it was to be effected, she was partly ignorant, especially as Graham had suddenly withdrawn from the company.* At a period of the dance, when the attention of the party is more excited than at others, Gormondy motioned her to be silent; he then ran up to the spot where she was standing, and embracing her round the middle with his gigantic arms, he swung her on his back, and (to use her own expression,) ran like lightning between the trees to the beach, where Graham was waiting for them with a canoe, into which she was placed, and the little bark swiftly glided across the smooth surface of the lake, to the middle of which they had arrived before the natives had discovered their absence; and they not having their canoes on that part of the shore, some time elapsed before pursuit could be made. Before she joined Lieutenant Otter, however, three or four of the tribe overtook them, and appeared very unwilling to give her up. Graham told them they would be handsomely rewarded with mocoës and other articles. He then made a signal, and Lieu-

* Mrs. Fraser states, that notwithstanding the presents Graham made to the natives, they cried *woobra, woobra*, (an expression of anger,) spat in his face, and poured upon him every contumely, which called for the interference of Gormondy, who assured the tribe that through him (Graham) they would receive a further present.

tenant Otter sent her a cloak and petticoat to put on, to prevent her appearing in a state of nudity before the boat's crew and soldiers. At this time she was very much fatigued, owing to the long walk she had the day before, and the joy which she felt, appeared rather to increase than allay her exhaustion. She says, that she felt almost spell-bound ; the work of the last hour seemed to her to be so mysterious that she could scarcely believe it a reality.

The sight of Lieutenant Otter, however, and his armed men, soon chased away her fears and her doubts, and her heart was transported with wonder, love, and praise, first to the God of all mercies, who had heard her prayers, and then to the brave officer and men who had risked their lives to save her. Mrs. Fraser now, with sparkling eyes and a grateful heart, expresses, with enthusiasm, the reception which she met with at the camp, not only from the brave officer, whose prowess we shall notice by-and-by, but also of the soldiers under his command, who, when she approached the camp, huzzaed, and cried out, "The lady! the lady!" It was about midnight when she arrived at the camp, and the first question she remembers putting to Lieutenant Otter, was, "What day of the month is it?" for her sufferings and her anxieties had long before destroyed the power of calculation. The officer then told her it was the 17th of August ;

so that she had been in her wretched captivity exactly six weeks.* Soon after she had arrived, Lieutenant Otter introduced her to Mr. Baxter, Hanham, and the boy Carey, when their mutual congratulations were as hearty as they were sincere. At this time she was coloured, and her head bedizened with feathers and other *ornaments*, after the manner of the natives, so that although partially dressed, her swarthy shrivelled skin presented a figure truly grotesque to the British soldiers, who

* Some of our readers have hinted to us, that the narrators must surely have over-coloured their statements in respect of the suffering which they endured, as they considered it impossible that human nature could have sustained such an accumulated load of affliction. We confess frankly that such thoughts did occasionally flit across our mind; but when we compared the several statements which were given to us, we found them to harmonize so admirably, that our momentary scepticism was soon chased away. Supposing, however, that any doubts had continued to lurk in our mind, they would have been entirely removed by the circumstance, that at this period of our labours, we have been favoured with a long and circumstantial account from Lieutenant Otter, of the wretched plight in which he found the party, Mrs. Fraser and Baxter in particular, which convinces us that they have very much under-rated their sufferings, rather than exaggerated in the statement.

The interesting detail of this gallant officer will be given in a subsequent part of the work, as well as other communications of an important nature, connected with the SHIPWRECK OF THE STIRLING CASTLE.

in the midst of their sympathy for her sufferings, could hardly suppress their smiles; and how could they? Notwithstanding the writer lays claim to a considerable portion of gravity when penning a narrative fraught with suffering and sorrow, yet he could not refrain from laughing heartily when Mrs. Fraser described her costume and decorations on the day of her escape from worse than Egyptian bondage. The quantity of gum which had been applied to her long hair, together with the fibres of bark, grass, feathers, &c. which were inserted in it, caused her head to appear the size of a band-box.*

Lieutenant Otter lost no time in rendering every

* They must have appeared exceedingly ludicrous in the eyes of each other; but as luckily no looking-glass was at hand, they can only speak by comparison. Baxter having arrived before his relative, had already divested himself of his *New Holland turban*, but his hair was so matted together with the adhesive gum and other filth, that a strong pair of shears became necessary to sever the locks from his head; and several weeks elapsed before he could entirely free himself from the ridiculous "*anointings*" of the savages.

A layer of gum had also been placed all over their persons, from head to foot, in order to cause the ochre to adhere, with which they were blackened; and these combined defied the power of soap-suds and a scrubbing-brush. The poor creatures, however, subjected themselves so frequently to ablutions, that at length their skin began to crack, and it gradually peeled off, so that before they left Sydney for Europe, they had *shed their coats*, and arrived in England clad in a *new skin*.

service which he was capable of affording, and these means were of no slight description, as he was amply provided with every necessary of provision and clothing. He first gave her a small quantity of port wine, and afterwards some tea was provided, the relish of which, she says, she shall never forget, as so many dreary weeks had passed since such delicious viands had entered her lips. At this time the boats and the major part of the men who formed the crew, together with a portion of the soldiers, were at least thirty miles from the spot where Lieutenant Otter and his little party had lain in ambuscade, and a question arose as to whether they should remain there until day-break, or commence their march immediately. Graham said, that there were 300 natives at the camp where Gormondy and he had found Mrs. Fraser, and as some of them had already come up, it would be advisable to proceed toward the boat with all speed, and in this Mrs. Fraser heartily concurred ; indeed, she almost insisted upon going, as she was influenced by a dread of again falling into the hands of the barbarians from whom she had been rescued. She appears to have thought nothing of the long distance she had to travel. They at length commenced their journey, and on her way she was assisted by her gallant deliverer, to whom she related the sufferings and privations which she had endured, and thus in some degree beguiled the tedium of her march. As she was

reduced to a mere skeleton, and her legs, &c., one mass of ulcerated sores, in consequence of the application of the fire-brands of her tormentors, tired nature at length gave way, and after she had with great difficulty walked fifteen miles, about half the distance to the boats, she could proceed no further. Lieutenant Otter and his men then carried her on their backs alternately, and they arrived at their boats about nine o'clock on the following morning. When they arrived here, a great number of the natives had assembled on the cliffs, and by their gestures and menaces they appeared to be extremely exasperated and hostile: this was what Graham had predicted. Lieutenant Otter wished not to resort to hostile measures, lest it might cause them to wreak their vengeance on any white person who might next fall into their hands. The commander having thus far accomplished his errand, was anxious to leave the inhospitable shore, but unfortunately the wind was as unfavourable as it well could be; hence they were detained for four days, the blacks keeping a sharp look-out upon their movements all the time. Graham informed her that he told some of the natives who first came up, that if they would not molest him he would get Mrs. Fraser back to them, or tear her to pieces; this is supposed to have been said with the view of saving his own life, for he well knew the barbarous and revengeful beings with whom he had to deal.

Lieutenant Otter, during the delay, administered every comfort to his fair charge which he judged prudent, and in this respect condiments were administered as if by a hand versed in another profession than “deeds of arms;” he, for a time, divested himself of the bold daring of the knight-errant, and became the watching, anxious, and administering nurse. If every soldier acted to an unprotected female, as this gallant champion did to the captain’s widow, then should we not hear of so much heart-breaking afflictions, bitter remorse, and odium, which result from conquests made over virtuous simplicity, instead of laurels obtained by military skill, which entitles them to the enthusiastic exclamation—

“ See the conquering hero comes ! ”

On the fifth day a fine breeze sprang up, and the sails were forthwith spread, the oars put in requisition, and the boats steered in the direction of Moreton Bay.

The officer and soldiers and crew under him were hilarious on their passage; and well they might, for they had at great risk and with considerable suffering rescued a lady from the fangs of cruel enemies. They all well knew the kind reception which they should meet with on their arrival at the settlement, and they were not disappointed in their anticipations, as we shall proceed to show in the next chapter. Even the convicts who formed the boats’ crew, partook of the

general joy, although some of them had undergone great physical suffering, and narrowly escaped death; theirs was, it is true, a compulsory duty, but it appeared to be a pleasant one, for, degraded as they were, they manifested a degree of gallantry which was only equalled by the soldiers who formed their body guard.

After a sail of thirty-six hours, the boats arrived at the settlement of Moreton Bay, from which they had been absent about ten days.*

* *Moreton Bay* is our furthest northern settlement, and is 480 miles from Port Jackson, it being formed upon the Brisbane river. It has two entrances, and is full of mud-banks, with safe channels between.

The river Brisbane is navigable twenty miles up, by ships drawing sixteen feet water, at which point a ridge of rocks crosses its bed. It has been examined more than one hundred miles interiorly, by Major Lockyer and Mr. Gray, and a channel found admitting boats to a great distance. Another considerable river has been discovered in Moreton Bay, more southerly, behind Port-Look out, opening by small channels of good navigable depth; but the interior of the country beyond it has not been explored. The country on each side of the Brisbane consists of rich brushy thickly-wooded flats toward the river, with open hilly forest land, extending backwards, rather stony, but well coated with grass. One uniform bank is presented toward the right, of the same description of forest-land, while toward the left, the high hills, comprising the Mount Waring range, are seen in the horizon. Trees of the most luxuriant growth, particularly a species of cypress, resembling the Norfolk Island pine, with a stem of from fifty to eighty feet without

a branch, here abound, and will no doubt form a valuable addition to the future resources of the colony.

A quantity of land is already under cultivation, and, doubtless, whenever the time arrives for the settling of this our territory, a tract of country will be laid open, unequalled for soil, climate, and other natural capabilities, by any other in the same latitude on the face of the globe.

The settlement at Moreton Bay has been established for a number of years, and belongs to the British government; and like Port Macquarie and Norfolk Island, are dependencies under the jurisdiction of the governor of the colony of New South Wales. In the course of a few years after this colony was planted, the number of convicts sent from the United Kingdom had greatly accumulated, and as they were assigned over to free settlers for a certain term of years, it became a great stimulus to emigration from the parent country, especially among small farmers and others, who were only possessed of a limited capital. In the course of a few years many of the convicts renewed those predatory habits which had been the cause of their expatriation, and the necessity of a court of criminal judicature soon became manifest; and one was soon after established, the judge of which had power delegated to administer the statute law of the land, as well as the laws which were specially for the government of the infant colony. As may well be imagined, owing to the abandoned characters of many of the convicts, not only theft and other high offences were frequent, but also acts of insubordination were apparent, which had they not been timely checked, would have led to open rebellion and bloodshed. It was owing to these circumstances that Moreton Bay was constituted a penal settlement, to which the judge had power to transport convicts and other offenders for the term of their natural lives, or any period of years which their offences might warrant. At this isolated and almost desolate spot the discipline is of the severest kind imaginable, and the necessity of inflicting it is often made apparent; but even in its most mitigated form it is abject slavery in the most

extended sense of the term. Within the last few years, our criminal laws have been so modified that the judges of assize have power to mark down incorrigible offenders as fit persons to be sent to the penal settlement, it being considered that transportation, in the ordinary sense of the term, would not be an adequate punishment for their crimes.

The misguided hapless wretches who find themselves at Moreton Bay, know, when it is too late, that the strong arm of the law is too powerful for them, and the startling truth of holy writ rushes upon them in vengeful tone, "*Surely the way of transgressors is hard.*" Even here there are gradations of punishment, which the lieutenant governor regulates and varies as the recklessness or obedience of the convict may warrant. These wretched men are employed in the severest labour, such as felling huge trees and dragging them to the sea shore, which is deemed (to use the language of the sufferers) "an Elysian employment, when compared with the infernal subterraneous regions of the stone quarry." Sometimes, by way of punishment, example, or security, an incorrigible convict is placed in what they term "fifty-six pounders," viz., irons of that weight, and the waist-belt or supporter being denied, they have to drag the ponderous load after them every step they take. Others, again, are subject to frequent and severe flagellations, a reduction of the dietary allowance, &c. &c.; indeed, they are sometimes driven to a state of frenzy, which causes them to rush into inevitable destruction.

This *anonymous* narrative has already fallen into the hands of those who have known the writer long, and he feels sure that they will give him credit for not *over-colouring* any statement he makes; but if, in portraying a scene of human wretchedness, it would be necessary he should do so, it is when alluding to circumstances which have relation to the most sceptical beings he has ever had to deal with. They seem frequently to be incapable of belief, and if the apparition of one of their late "bang-up" fraternity were to appear before them, perhaps they would not give credence to his statement. For the last thirty-six con-

secutive months, the learned Recorder of London has sounded the trump of caution on the "day of judgment," in order to alarm the fears of his gallery auditory; and, doubtless, his voice has deterred some of the *uninitiated* from the commission of crime. Should we ever publish the long-solicited "VOICE FROM SYDNEY," we think the veil will be removed, and *cracksmen* (burglars) be taught, that in the region to which their steps surely tend, "locks, bolts, and bars fly NOT asunder," and *divers* (swell-mobsmen) convinced, that should they ever reach the penal settlement, they will, like *Dives*, implore some father Abraham to send a messenger to warn others against coming to *that place of torment!* The caution is NOW given—transgressors,

"Be wise betimes, 'tis madness to defer!"

When we arrive at the principal colony, we shall make a few remarks upon the convict population; but we were induced to be the more diffuse in this place, because we have information relative to those abandoned outcasts which few possess; and our wish is, that the faint outline of sorrow, suffering, slavery, and privation, (for faint it is) may have the tendency to deter from crime. If this be done in one instance, the writer will be gratified, and the reader will, upon the same principle, excuse what he might deem a prolix, if not an irrelevant annotation.

One of the public journals has recently described the penal colonies of Australia, as inhabited by "the most demoralized society that ever existed on the face of the earth; a community of criminals, among whom there is neither repentance nor shame, who boast of their crimes, grow rich on the wages of vice, sometimes ultimately live in splendid profligacy, and leave their possessions to children, reared without the slightest sense of moral obligation, and in utter ignorance of the precepts of religion!"

CHAPTER XIII.

“ For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat : I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink : I was a stranger, and ye took me in : naked, and ye clothed me : I was sick, and ye visited me.”

MATT. xxv. 35, 36.

It appears that on the arrival of Carrallis at Moreton Bay, he gave such information relative to the wreck of the *Stirling Castle*, the cruel death of some of the crew, and the horrible captivity of a few survivors, that Captain Fyans, the commandant at the settlement, consulted with the officers of the corps stationed there as to what should be done, being aware that his power did not extend far enough to order any one of them to undertake the perilous expedition which was contemplated. Lieutenant Otter, as we have shown, instantly volunteered to start, and the necessary preliminaries were soon settled : of the manner in which the object was achieved, our readers are already apprised. When the boat neared the shore of the penal settlement, Mrs. Fraser, ill and fatigued as she was, rejoiced exceedingly in the change which had so unexpectedly taken place. She was told that the ladies there were anxiously

awaiting her arrival, and assured that every thing which humanity could suggest and benevolence perform would be done in order to alleviate her sufferings and restore her health. She found on her landing that her gallant deliverer had underrated the kindness she was to participate, for so eager were the assembled ladies to make her their guest, that a contention arose among them as to with whom she should domicile, although it was apparent, invalid as Mrs. Fraser was, that she would require great and long attention.

The palm of victory was at length awarded to Mrs. Rachel Owen, the lady of a gentleman connected with the commissariat department. Of this lady the narrator speaks with lively gratitude, amounting almost to enthusiasm, and declares that the kind and sisterly attention paid to her for several weeks with unremitting assiduity, will never be obliterated from her memory. Nothing which could have the most remote tendency to recruit her health, exhilarate her drooping spirits, or promote her personal enjoyment, was withheld. Such was the uniform manner in which those attentions were paid, that, to use her own words, she was "almost killed with kindness." Nor were these acts of benevolent feeling confined to Mrs. Owen, for she was daily visited and nursed by the ladies of the place; and she mentions, with kind recollection, the lady of Dr. Robinson, her medical attendant.

As may well be supposed, Captain Fyans (the

lieutenant-governor of the settlement), and the military gentlemen, were most unremitting in their inquiries and attentions. During the time she tarried at the bay she had occasional interviews with Mr. Baxter, the second mate, who, although in an enfeebled state, had become an out-patient at the hospital, when they congratulated each other that they had been emancipated from a barbarous land to a neighbouring soil which was inhabited by Christians, who, like the good Samaritan, poured oil and wine into their wounds.

During the time the invalids were at Moreton Bay, communications were sent to Sydney by Captain Fyans, at every opportunity, respecting their state of health ; and when it was considered that they were arrived at such a stage of convalescence that they might be removed without danger to the metropolis, Sir R. Bourke, the governor, was apprised of the fact, and he forthwith caused an armed revenue-cutter to be fitted out to fetch them to Sydney ; it being considered that the mild temperature of the climate would conduce to their complete recovery ; and moreover, that they could be better accommodated than at Moreton Bay.

The revenue-cutter, " Prince George," having been fitted out with every thing necessary for a coasting voyage of 500 miles, sailed from Sydney early in October, and proceeded to within fifty miles of the penal settlement, when the anchor

was dropped, and Captain Roach, the commander of the cutter, went to the pilot station, and gave orders that Captain Fyans should be apprised of his arrival at the Point “*Look-out* ;” and upon these orders the pilot acted.* As soon as Captain Fyans received the communication, Mrs. Fraser, Baxter, and the rest were apprised of the fact, and the “note of preparation” was sounded, and promptly obeyed.

Not but that they had been kindly treated, but still they felt an irresistible desire to make towards home. England and Scotland were uppermost in their minds ; the thought of parents, children, relatives, rushed upon their memory with renewed impetuosity ; hence, the disagreeable sensation of parting from kind friends was greatly neutralised ; yet the separation was an affecting one, and particularly the final adieu between Baxter and the

* Mr. Baxter states, that the penal settlement of Moreton Bay is what is termed “a bar-harbour,” into which it would be unsafe for a vessel to enter at low water, as a bar runs across it from north to south. Vessels beyond a certain tonnage never venture over the shoals, and hence the pilot station here alluded to. When convicts or stores are brought from the colony to the settlement, the vessels stop at the pilot station, and the freight is removed into craft, which are kept on purpose to convey the passengers and cargo thither from “Point Look-out.” It was in one of these vessels that the narrators and their companions were conveyed. “Point Look-out” is described as being about fifty miles from the penal settlement, and 450 from Sydney.

humane serjeants (Perry and Burns), who have been honourably mentioned in a preceding part of our narrative.

Every thing being arranged for a final separation, Baxter, Carrallis, Carey (the boy,) Hanham, Youlden, and Darge, embarked in a whale-boat, manned with eight men at the oars, and a helmsman, in order to proceed down the river to the Prince George cutter. They started about eleven o'clock, A.M. ; and Mrs. Fraser and the lady of Dr. Robinson, with her domestic attendant, together with Lieutenant Otter, entered a skiff about three P.M., the vessel being manned with scientific steersmen, &c. ; and although, numerically considered, a diminutive crew, yet the parties composing it were well versed in the knowledge of the sub-marine pinnacles which had their base between the settlement and the bar to the Bay ; and thus by manœuvre they reached "Point Look-out" nearly as soon as the whale-boat, whose greater draught of water caused them to take a more zig-zag course.*

The brave captain of the "*Prince George*," who

* In a subsequent number will be given a map, which will show the latitude and longitude of "Point Look-out," and the other places connected with this history ; and as it has been delineated by a gentleman conversant in nautical lore, we fearlessly augur that it will be examined with peculiar interest by at least one class of our numerous readers.

had been sent from Sydney for the purpose already named, having received information by the crew and passengers of the whale-boat that more distinguished visitors would shortly arrive; with "the heart of a true British sailor" he prepared for their reception and accommodation; and although on their arrival they were not saluted by "fire and smoke," they were hailed with hearty exclamations of welcome, and regaled with as elegant and substantial *déjeuné à la fourchette* as could be expected in the cabin of a revenue cutter.

The assemblage of this trio of vessels we should have been delighted to have beheld. What a congress! what congratulations and confabulations too! Moreover, what an heterogeneous mixture of character! There stood the heroine of our history, as one rescued almost by miracle from the grasp of brutal men, with every eye fixed upon her, and every eye sparkled that gazed. Although in a physical point of view she was partially recovered, yet she was still "haggard, poor, and lean," and bearing evident marks of the tortures which she had undergone, and of the degrading disfigurements to which her person had been subjected by the hand of ferocious barbarity.*

* Circumstances have arisen at this period of our history which imperatively call upon the author to deviate from the track which he had originally marked out; and although the subject-matter of his remaining details must necessarily be transposed,

There stood Lieutenant Otter like a brave champion, and his eyes flashed in those of the captain of the Prince George with a conscious but unassuming pride—and well he might! We are sure

and the unity of the whole in some degree destroyed, “Necessity has no law;” and happy is he that the imperious dame does not impose upon him the task of seeking aid from her two daughters, *invention* and *subterfuge*. For some days past there has been an excitement in the public mind in consequence of a letter which has been inserted in most of the public journals in reference to Mrs. Fraser, signed by Mr. Dowling, the superintendent of police at Liverpool: which letter, the author begs to state, contains conclusions drawn from improper premises, as will be shown in the sequel; for all the correspondence which this letter has given rise to, will find a place in our pages. Some of our readers, we know, have drawn an unfavourable inference because Mrs. Fraser concealed a fact, which she had certainly better have disclosed, as will be shown by and by, for we shall “nothing extenuate,” which may be construed into imposition, yet at the same time every allowance will be made for what is certainly a deviation from strict rectitude of conduct, the more especially as her motive for concealment was dictated by a desire for *the benefit of her fatherless children*. Why this comparatively “slight trespass,” when contrasted with her sufferings, and the destitute state of her offspring, should have created “all this stir,” we know not; or why the hand of charity should be withdrawn from her innocent orphans, we cannot divine. At all events it is cruel and un-English to give the lie to the detail of her sufferings, and perhaps the sneers which have been directed to the writer of them may recoil upon those who are easily cheated by an evil report, because they only superficially investigate the good one.

that he will be noted in some conspicuous leaf of the *ladies' albums* for 1838 ; and we shall be not a little surprised if the beautiful L. E. L. does not immortalize him by her redundant pen, ere the

In our introductory chapter we said, and we repeat it, fearless of contradiction, "*It will be our object to narrate and arrange them (i. e. the sufferings of the survivors connected with the STIRLING CASTLE) link by link in the chain of melancholy detail. In doing this we shall not be under the painful necessity of contradicting the facts already before the public, but we shall be enabled to confirm them by unquestionable corroborative testimony, both oral and documentary.*"

The pledge has *already* been partly redeemed, and we conceive that the best way to show that Mrs. Fraser is not "an ingenious impostor," and "a base fabricator" of lies in order "to gull the benevolent," is by inserting a letter written by Lieutenant Otter, her gallant deliverer, to his cousin, a gentleman ranking high in the army, by which it will be made manifest that the hapless woman in her detail to us, has much underrated rather than exaggerated her sufferings.

It cannot be expected that scepticism can be chased away in a moment, but one request the writer begs personally to make, and that is, that investigation (aided by comparison) may be made, and judgment suspended, until the "summary chapter" is presented to view, when, he believes, that puerile as may be the diction and style of his writing, yet bearing the impress of veracity based upon strict investigation, he will retire from his humble, yet to him, arduous labour, by placing *NIL DESPERANDUM* at the top, and *FINIS CORONAT OPUS* at the bottom.

Without further remark, we insert, by way both of explanation and annotation, the letter of Lieutenant Otter: only observing, that if after that any doubt as to the accuracy of the

close of that year; for Miss Landon, in her innocence and beauty, knows as well how to entwine laurels, and place them on the brow of "*the Chevalier*," as does Mr. T. H. Bayly to depict the amiability and "*the Kindness of Women*."

copy should remain, the sceptic may see the original if he pleases.

The following is the letter to which we have referred, and we give it *verbatim et literatim*, premising, that, written to a relative, its publication was never contemplated. Had that been so, the gallant writer would have been diffuse rather than succinct in his detail.

"*Moreton Bay, Sept., 1836.*"

"I got a week's leave of absence to go down to the bay, for the purpose of amusing myself with catching turtle. The wind proved favourable for the sport, when we had got to the pilot's station; and after remaining a few days there, I thought I would take a day's shooting at a place called Brisbane Island, which is situated at the north side of the bay. I accordingly proceeded to that place, and whilst out with my gun, fell in with two men whom I took to be natives. When they came up, however, they addressed me, to my astonishment, in English, and told me that they were part of the crew of a vessel called the *Stirling Castle*, which had sailed from Sydney to Singapore about three weeks previously, and had been wrecked on one of the Borrean reefs, near the extreme of Torres Straits. The whole of the crew, with the captain (Fraser), his wife, and two mates, had got away from the wreck after a fortnight's dreadful suffering. One of the boats, in which were the above-mentioned persons and some sailors, eleven in all, they had been forced to beach a little below Sandy Cape, about 200 miles to the northward of this: the other boat had parted from them a few days before,

After mutual congratulations had been interchanged, the captain of the cutter requested a detail of the sufferings of the party he was delegated to take charge of. Lieutenant Otter became the

and they saw no more of it. They went on to say, that soon after their landing, the natives came down and took every thing from them that they had saved, stripped them all perfectly naked, forced them to fetch wood and water, and treated them with the most savage cruelty. They themselves, with another who had been obliged from weakness to stop about twenty-five miles behind, had managed to get across to the main land, for they had seen the boat ashore on an island. After travelling for six weeks along the coast, in which journey they suffered uncommon hardships from the cruelty of the different tribes they fell in with, they most providentially had arrived at Brisbane Island just in time to meet with me. They had crossed the narrow channel which separates this island from the main land the day before I arrived; and as I was to leave it the next morning, it would have been long before they would have been seen or heard of, as the island is hardly ever visited; and they did not know themselves where they were, or how far from the settlement.

“I immediately dispatched two men after the unfortunate fellow who had been left behind, and he was brought to me naked and black as the two others. After that I started for the settlement (Moreton Bay). On reporting the circumstance to the commandant, Captain Fyans, two whale-boats were got ready, and being provisioned for three weeks, the command of the squadron was given to me, for the purpose of endeavouring to rescue the remainder of the crew, particularly the unfortunate lady, who was treated with as much cruelty as any of the rest. the savages having no regard for the *beau sexe*. We were pro-

spokesman, and gave a recital which caused the captain to listen with the taciturnity of a dumb spectator.

The gallant officer pointed to the lady he had

vided with soups, wine, clothes, &c. for the men; and I was furnished by two of the ladies of the settlement with female attire for Mrs. Fraser. A person accompanied me as an interpreter, and proved of the greatest service, as he had formerly been a runaway, and had resided nearly six years amongst the natives, with whose language he was well acquainted. (Graham.)

“ We lost no time in getting out to sea, and in two days after leaving the pilot-station, we put into a river about seventy miles to the northward, as we expected intelligence from some of the natives. After some trouble, Graham, our interpreter, heard of two white men being in the native camp, and by promising hatchets to the savages, he induced them to bring the white men in. The poor fellows were wild with joy at seeing us, and they could hardly believe their senses, as they never expected to be liberated. They told us that the captain and first mate had sunk under their sufferings, that Mrs. Fraser was alive when they last saw her, at a place about forty miles off, but undergoing every hardship; and that two of the crew were drowned in endeavouring to swim the channel. I now sent one boat round the next point, about forty or fifty miles distant, while I started off on foot with three others, armed only with pistols, for fear of alarming the blacks, who are much afraid of a gun. When we had proceeded about six miles, the treacherous wretches attacked us with clubs, and forced us back to the boats, as we were hardly able to keep them off with our pistols, which they had but little fear of. We were obliged to fire at them several times in our own defence, although much against my will, as I was afraid of their retaliating upon the unhappy people in their power. We now

rescued, and with a look of pride, blended with compassion, he entered into a succinct detail of her sufferings; and, as far as delicacy would permit, the insults which she had undergone. He

embarked, and followed the former boat around the aforesaid point into a wide bay, which we reached before night. About two days afterwards, we got the second mate, and such a miserable skeleton I never beheld, quite black, and naked. The account of his sufferings was horrible, as he had been tortured in a variety of ways because he was too weak to drag the heavy logs of fire-wood, in obedience to the wishes of the savages.

“ We learned to our mortification, that Mrs. Fraser, who had been some time alone amongst the savages, had only a few days before passed the very spot where we were, but that she had been carried off by a large party of blacks who were going to fight another tribe, some forty miles distant; and Graham told me he knew the very spot where she was. I sent him off directly to the place, he having previously stripped himself, the only way of escaping ill usage from those brutes; and I followed next morning along the beach to support him if it should be requisite, accompanied by three men well armed with muskets this time.

“ After we had gone about thirty miles we came to a mark in the sand, the signal agreed upon for us to stop and wait for him. We had not been here half an hour, when he appeared with four natives on the top of the cliff above us. When he came down the hill, the blacks, on seeing us armed, attempted to run away, but he persuaded them by promises of hatchets to turn back. I went up to meet him, and you may conceive my joy and satisfaction when he told me that Mrs. Fraser was waiting on the top of the hill until I sent her a cloak. I immediately gave him a cloak and petticoat, and shortly after-

also stated the manner in which she had been treated, and the opinion which Dr. Robinson had given as to the measures which ought to be resorted to in order to insure a thorough physical and

wards she appeared. *You never saw such an object. Although only thirty-eight years of age, she looked like an old woman of seventy, perfectly black, and dreadfully crippled from the sufferings she had undergone. I went to meet her, and she caught my hand, burst into tears, and sunk down quite exhausted. She was a mere skeleton, the skin literally hanging upon her bones, whilst her legs were a mass of sores, where the savages had tortured her with firebrands. Notwithstanding her miserable plight, it was absolutely necessary for us to start homewards, though she had already come nine or ten miles, as there were about 300 natives in the camp, who, Graham said, would most likely attack us in the night, for many of them had been unwilling to give her up. He had fortunately met with one of his former friends, a kind of chief, through whose influence he had succeeded. So treacherous are the natives, that it is impossible to trust one of them for a moment.*

“After having given the poor woman some port wine, which I had brought with me in a flask, and some tea, which she thought was nectar from heaven, she insisted upon immediately setting out, though we had nearly thirty miles to walk. On the road she gave me a dismal account of her hardships and privations, interrupting herself with bursts of gratitude, which it was painful to listen to. Her husband had been speared before her face about a month back, and had gradually pined, until his death, totally neglected. Any attempt of hers to approach him was followed by blows on the head. When he died they dragged the body away by the heels, and buried it in the sand. The unfortunate first mate suffered still more. They burnt his

mental healthiness in the system. From words which fell from his lips, it appears evident that the unfortunate woman, notwithstanding her kind treatment at the settlement, had evinced symptoms

legs with fire-brands to such a degree, that, on his crawling into the water, the flesh all dropped off from the bones, which were laid bare up to the knees, and in this way he lay helpless, and was starved to death. On one occasion, when she attempted to take him a few cockles, they knocked her down with a club, and dragged her through a pond by the arms and legs.

“ When we met her, she had been two days without food, and had subsisted the most part of the time on a kind of fern root which is found in the swamps. Now and then she would get the tail or fin of a fish, when the savages had a superabundance. This she was obliged to earn by dragging heavy logs of wood and fetching water; and she was not allowed to enter their huts; but, destitute of all covering as she was, she was obliged to lie out the whole night, even in the heaviest rains.

“ This is but a slight sketch of what she went through—a detailed account would fill a quire of paper. When we had got about half-way to our boats, we were obliged to carry her in turns. We did not arrive until the next morning; when, after taking some rest, she begged I would send her some hot water, as she was anxious to restore her face and person to their natural colour. I suspect she found it no easy task, as, besides her exposure to the sun and wind, the natives, in order to bring her as near as possible to their own complexion, had rubbed her every day with charcoal and fat.

“ Our only anxiety was to get away, as we had accomplished our errand, and the blacks were keeping us constantly on the watch. We were detained by contrary winds for four days, during which one of our men got a spear sent through his thigh.

of aberration of mind, and as we have before gently hinted, we think we have seen a tendency that way ourselves. And if it be so, who can wonder? Many a lady has found an asylum in a mad-house for life in consequence of bereavements less painful,—who have never experienced the pains, privations, and insults of the female we are alluding to.

Mrs. Robinson appeared to be deeply affected at the idea of parting with the lady who had been the object of her solicitude in the hours of affliction, which was not yet chased away: the tale of her sorrows had deeply impressed her sensitive mind. Baxter and his male companions also stood there as objects of interest and commiseration, for, although convalescent, they were, to use Baxter's own term, miserable objects—indeed, from the crown of their heads to the soles of their feet there was no soundness in them. Two of the party, we are informed, have paid the debt of nature; and those who survive will never be possessed of their pristine physical power.

The party who composed the crew and guard of

At length we had a fair breeze, and reached the settlement in two days and a night.

“ Since our arrival Mrs. Fraser has been suffering very much from the effects of hardships, which showed themselves in pains in her limbs and joints. She is now coming fast round, and I dare say will be soon quite well.”

our little convoy, banished as some of them were through transgression, appeared to partake in the joyful congratulations which were interchanged by their superiors ; for sorrow and suffering oft-times humanize the heart and awaken its best sympathies, which in the days of adventurous crime, lie almost, if not entirely, dormant. The object those have in view who inflict punishment is, that in the school of coercion transgressors may learn wisdom ; and in enforcing it, they act upon the principle adopted by the moral Governor of the universe, in his chastening dealings with the children of men.*

At length the time arrived when Lieutenant Otter must retrograde to the settlement, and the Prince George proceed on her voyage ; and the friends parted, never more, perhaps, to meet again. It appears to us, from the expressions of the narrators, that they will ever have a grateful and

* A very intelligent convict, who had a hair-breadth escape from the gallows, in one of his Sydney epistles to us, contrasts his former condition in society (a most respectable one,) with his present state of degradation and suffering ; and ere the victim to the artifice of an insidious "*Millwood*" concludes, he expresses a determination to endure to the end with resignation. Although in a distant part of the bush, and employed as "a hewer of wood and drawer of water," he declares (and who dare doubt his sincerity ?) that the Bible is his only solace, and quotes the following passage—"Before I was afflicted I went astray—but now have I kept Thy word."

lively recollection of the numerous acts of kindness which they received at Moreton Bay—indeed, gratitude demands that it should be so, and that they never ought to cease to pray for their welfare. Any change or movement which would carry them toward their natal land, neutralized the pangs of separation. Exiled as they had been, and sufferers as they were, they could feelingly exclaim with our favourite poet, “England, with all thy faults, I love thee still.”

“There are, who strongly love to roam,
And find in wildest haunts their home;
And some in halls of lordly state,
Who yet are homeless—desolate.
The sailor’s home is on the main—
The warrior’s on the tented plain—
The maiden’s in the bower of rest—
The infant’s on its mother’s breast;
But *Britain is a home to me,*
A land remote from slavery.”—ANONYMOUS.

CHAPTER XIV.

“ Now redeem'd exiles cheerfully retreat
Unto the shore t'which error bends its way,
E'en to the penal shore of Botany Bay.”

ANONYMOUS.

CAPTAIN ROACH having weighed anchor, proceeded not direct to Sydney, but, obedient to the orders which were given him by Sir R. Bourke, the governor, to sail coast-wise on his return, in order to discover if possible whether any other of the crew of the Stirling Castle were yet alive, as there were then three missing, of whom Hodge could give no account. The cutter had not sailed more than 100 miles north of “Point Look-out” before the crew saw a number of fires on or near the beach; and owing to the stillness of the water and a slight breeze, Baxter could easily distinguish the boisterous *coheeing* of the natives, a proof that they were in one of their merriest moods.

Captain Roach consulted those who had a painful experience of the manners of the barbarians, and was advised to keep out from the shore until day-break, because if any of the missing crew were in their hands, intimidation arising from the

approach of an armed cutter, might cause the natives to hurry the captives further into the bush, or perhaps at once destroy them.

Perhaps we may not be accused of uncharitable feeling, when we candidly express, that the narrators felt a repugnance at nearing the shore, lest they should become victims to the fatal and unerring spear, or again taken into captivity: if this were so, it partakes not of cowardice, but emanates from that strong inherent principle in our nature—self-preservation.

Be this as it may, Captain Roach had his prescribed orders, and like a brave and obedient commander, he followed them up to the very letter. On the following morning he proceeded to the beach, and with his crew went on shore. The natives had retired into the bush, and all was silence save the muttering of the rippling ocean, and the warbling of the splendidly fledged birds which abound in that latitude. Sounds were echoed, which would have been well defined, had they reached an European ear, but no one approached. They had not proceeded far along the coast near the sea shore, ere their attention was attracted by the impress of human feet on the earth. These the enterprising party followed until they came to a spot, where it was evident a recent *corrobery* had been held. It was not long before one of the crew sounded an alarm, which caused all his companions to fly to the spot from whence

the sound proceeded. On their arrival, they beheld their companion riveted to the spot in a state approaching to petrification; and no wonder, for his eyes were fixed upon the disfigured body and extremities of a person who has already been named in this narrative—they were the remains of James Major!

It appeared, from small fragments of bones which lay near his disfigured trunk, that the natives had placed his head on a fire, which consumed the thorax, and descended obliquely to a part of the left side of the abdomen, when it appeared to have satiated its vengeance, or perhaps its flame was extinguished by the gushing of the heart's blood of the victim! From appearances, it was calculated that the sacrifice had been made two or three days before the landing of our exploring party; and, but for a comparatively trivial circumstance at first view, it would never have been known who the sufferer had been, or to what nation he belonged. Baxter, Darge, and others of the rescued, were conveyed to the spot, when, with one voice, they proclaimed that it was their late shipmate, Major. And how did they identify him? It was thus:—From some cause or other, the sanguinary brutes who put him to death, had, either from forgetfulness, or that their rapacity was blunted by a deed of bloodshed, failed to denude him of a well-known waistcoat, the colour and remaining buttons of

which were recognized by Baxter and his companions. We have already stated the progress which the fire had made upon the disfigured and headless corpse. But the work of destruction did not end here,—it was quite apparent that the kangaroo dogs had made a hearty meal on the most fleshy part of the thighs and legs of the poor fellow, so that what remained of him was a horrid spectacle to behold. Well might the first discoverer have been petrified ; for even when relating the particulars to us for the purpose of narration, Baxter's flesh quivered as though he had been torn by pincers, and made the blood of the author curdle in his veins. When describing Major's aptitude as a seaman, and descanting upon the good qualities of his unfortunate defunct friend, the tear of the sailor, than which we think nothing is more affecting, gushed from his lashes—a tear, we doubt not, excited by gratitude combined with regret—gratitude for his own preservation—regret for the fate of his companions. Nor need he have been ashamed of that tear, for his very expression excited sympathy, which brought to our mind the words of a sublime poet—

“ If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.”

But to return from what may be deemed the field of prosing reflection, let us attend the funeral obsequies of poor Major. After many a

sigh of regret for his untimely end, all that remained of a handsome young man of twenty-three, was committed to the grave; the burial service of the church, so far as it could be recollected, was recited; and it may be gratifying to his relatives, should they ever read this history, to know, that although buried on a barbarous shore, his humble grave was surrounded by those who did not "mimic sorrow when their hearts were not sad."

After the melancholy obsequies, the cutter proceeded on her voyage, and every creek and inlet was explored with care and steady perseverance, without any important discovery being made. They sailed in the direction of the metropolis of the new world, and early on the fifth day after they left Point Look-out, they reached Sydney-Head on Saturday, October 15th, 1836.

When our party landed on a once barbarous soil, which had become more than *demi-angelized*, they found that a change of hemisphere had not altered the character of a feeling which will ever reflect honour upon the mother country—they were, as at Brisbane River, hailed with enthusiasm, as though they had achieved a great victory. Notwithstanding provision had been made for their succour, and entertainment, by the humane governor, yet the respectable inhabitants were desirous that they should have the party billeted upon them, so anxious were they to hear the re-

cital of the troubles they had seen and the conflicts they had passed, during the interval since the survivors had left Sydney.*

Mrs. Fraser stated to us many instances of kindness which she met with: indeed, familiarized as are the inhabitants with the history of crime and cruelty, this case of the crew of the *Stirling Castle* was viewed as something out of the common course of events—a sort of paragon of savage barbarity and human endurance combined.

The excitement occasioned by their arrival was not confined to one class of persons, for those of all

* We are requested by Baxter to notice the kind and hospitable attention paid to him by Mr. Tegg, the son of a celebrated London bookseller, who has settled in Sydney, where he is carrying on a flourishing business; literature being his staple commodity.

Mrs. Fraser also expressed a wish that we should introduce into our history the names of some of the gentry of Sydney, who have shown her extraordinary acts of kindness. Her desire is complied with, because it appears to have emanated from a grateful heart: and she expressed a hope, that when the history of the *Stirling Castle* arrived at New South Wales, it would be seen, that those who pitied her in the days of her widowhood and low estate, were not forgotten after she had changed her condition in life.

The following are the principal names which she mentioned, viz.—The Rev. Mr. Marsden, of Paramatta, Captain Duke and Lady, Captain Monroe, Captain Davis, Captain Lewis, D. Thompson, Esq., Colonial Secretary, Madame Debac, Mr. and Mrs. Slade, and Mrs. Vitie.

ranks, from the mitred head down to the mechanic, partook of the general joy.

Shortly after their arrival, the inhabitants requested the Right Reverend the Bishop of Australia to hold a special public service in St. James's church, and to preach a sermon of thanksgiving for the deliverance of a portion of the ill-fated crew.

The Right Rev. Prelate cheerfully obeyed the call, and the whole of the party, with the exception of Hodge, (who was very lame) attended the solemn service; and perhaps the spacious church had never been so crowded before.

After remaining for a considerable time in Sydney, Mrs. Fraser embarked on board the *Mediterranean Packet*, Captain Greene, which sailed on the 16th of February, 1837, from Sydney, and after a pleasant voyage of five months, she arrived at Liverpool on the 16th of July.*

* In a former part of this history, it was intimated, that we should now and then append a note relative to the interesting colony of which Sydney is the capital. For the present, we subjoin the following brief sketch, reserving others which have been penned for future insertion.

The general features of the colony of New South Wales are widely different in many respects from that part of the continent on which the persons connected with this lamentable history were cast, and so are the manners of the natives, more especially those who resided in those parts of the bush most contiguous to the metropolis, as well as of the inland settlements which have been formed; in the latter respect, perhaps, the

change already apparent, has had its origin and progress in the frequent coalition between them and the British settlers. It matters but little, we conceive, by what means the savage nature of men is subdued, and civilization extended; whether from the effect of fear, or from a sordid policy, so that the important point be achieved.

This salubrious and beautifully picturesque colony exhibits a range of hills and valleys, mountains and plains, and along the sea coast the mountains rise to an elevation of from 3000 to 4000 feet, running nearly parallel with the coast, at a distance of from forty to fifty miles, the intervening space being an undulating plain, intersected by several rivers which have their rise in the elevation just mentioned; beyond which a considerable extent of table land stretches in every direction, gradually depressing towards the interior.

The boundary of the New South Wales territory is imperfectly defined: it may be said, however, to extend coastwise between the parallels of 36° and 28° S. lat., or about 500 miles along the sea shore; while the greatest distance yet settled inland, can scarcely be said to be more than 200 miles. The portion in which land may be selected, was fixed by a government order, dated October 1829, and comprised 34,505 square miles, or 22,083,200 acres; the boundaries being on the east to the sea coast, from the mouth of the Manning river in 32° S. lat.; on the north, the river Manning from the sea coast westward, to a range of mountains, including all those valleys and ravines which descend to the rivers Goulburn and Hunter; on the west, a line, nearly along the line of the meridian of 148° W. long.; and on the south, from Mount Murray (in the latitude of Bateman's Bay) to the Munro River, in 36° S. lat. The total number of white inhabitants, when the last census was taken, amounted to upwards of 100,000, of whom about 25,000 were prisoners,—the residue of upwards of 90,000 male and female convicts who have been transported to the settlement since its formation in 1788.

CHAPTER XV.

“ Nothing extenuate, nor aught set down in malice.”

IN this latitude of our historical voyage, during which no accident has been noted down in our *log-book*, a “reef” made its appearance, which called into requisition all our nautical experience, and forced into active service all the skill in seamanship which we possessed; but having on board the sheet-anchor of truth, we felt confident that although our voyage might be a little retarded, we should not founder, because as well as the anchor, we had the mirror of truth, and should dispel the mist, which so suddenly and unexpectedly hovered around us; so that eventually we should have a clear sky, and smooth water. Not wishing to dare the threatened danger, to use a nautical phrase, we backed a little, and hauled off until we got before the wind, and making sail, we cast anchor in the Bay of “*Public Confidence*.”

Having made these preliminary remarks, we now proceed to detail circumstances which have occurred since the widow of the late Captain Fraser

arrived in England : and in doing so it will be necessary to blend epistolary documents with historical remarks, in order that the facts to which we allude may appear before the public in an intelligible form.

After the arrival of Mrs. Fraser at Liverpool, and her sojourn there for some time, in order to recover from the fatigues of a long voyage, she was advised by her friends to proceed to London, in order to lay her case before the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, and the more especially as she possessed documents signed by the authorities at New South Wales, *verifying the truth of her statement*, and recommending her as an object worthy of the commiseration and assistance of the Home Government. The lady made her way to the metropolis, and presented a respectful petition to the Colonial Office, to which was annexed a brief historical detail of the sufferings she had undergone. The petition set forth the destitute state of her three fatherless children, and implored that some provision should be made for them, either temporary or permanent, as Her Majesty's government might deem meet. Her papers and certificates were received, and she was told to call again in two or three days, to ascertain whether there would be any reply. On the fourth day after the delivery she applied again at the Colonial Office, for the purpose already named, when it was intimated that the documents had

not passed a thorough review, and she was told to call again on a day named by one of the principal clerks ; and to this injunction she was punctual. When she again called, she was told that Lord Glenelg had perused her papers, and had left word, that if his lordship saw any reason he would communicate with her. This was understood to be, what in official parlance it really was, "*your petition is dismissed*;" for no further notice was taken of it.

Anxiously desirous that something might be done for her children, it was natural that she should "run to every avenue and seek for help;" and her steps were directed, by the advice of some friends, to the Rev. G. C. Smith, of Wellclose square, in order to ascertain whether that gentleman could get at least one of her boys into the asylum for the children of shipwrecked captains and sailors. And who can blame her for the laudable effort? At the time she so went, Mr. Smith was on a periodical and distant tour, but one of the officers connected with the excellent institution alluded to, after hearing her dismal recital, advised her to go to the Mansion-house, and detail her history to the Lord Mayor, who, she was informed, was a benevolent gentleman, and would, doubtless, advise her how to act in her hour of extremity. This advice she followed, and the result of her application to his lordship is already partially before our readers, but the full details will be

given hereafter. We allude to this circumstance thus early, in order to show that she could not have contemplated that the sympathetic feelings of the public would have been so much excited in favour of herself and children; nor did she dream that her testimony would be confirmed by Baxter and Darge, as she did not know that either of them was in London.

The chief magistrate lent a willing ear to the melancholy recital of her bereavement, suffering, and the destitution of her children; and having afforded temporary relief, he said he would make the necessary inquiries into her distressing case. She stated that she had a daughter fifteen years of age, and two boys, one nine, and the other seven, who had been residing at Stromness, in a state of destitution, and they had no one to look to for future support, but to the owners of the *Stirling Castle* and a humane public.

As a matter of course, the recital of Mrs. Fraser appeared fully detailed in most of the London journals, and from thence transcribed into some of the provincial newspapers; and as will be made manifest in the sequel, the humanity of the benevolent was aroused, and "their purses were unstrung."

As soon as the report of the then partially recited narrative had been circulated, the Lord Mayor received documents from various quarters, which were confirmatory of the veracity of the statement

which had been made to him, and among the first was the following from a highly respectable gentleman, the scion of a stock which will ever be held in deserved estimation, and will recur to the mind, when *Slavery* is the topic of conversation.

As the document is one of our many confirmatory links in the chain of evidence, we give it insertion *verbatim*.

“Southampton, August 22, 1837.

“Mr. Wilberforce has the honour of inclosing for the Lord Mayor’s inspection, a letter written by Stephen Owen, Esq., an officer in the Commissariat department, stationed at Moreton Bay.

“The letter is addressed to Mr. Owen, and relates to the case of Mrs. Fraser, which has been recently made known to your Lordship.

“As the cover of the letter has been torn, Mr. Wilberforce conceives that it may not be improper for him to state that from his own knowledge of the handwriting of Mr. Owen, who is the brother-in-law of Mr. Wilberforce, he can positively declare, the inclosed letter and the part of the address on the torn cover, to be the writing of that gentleman.”

This communication inclosed a letter from Mr. Owen, dated 2nd October, 1836, from which the following is an extract:—

“I send you a few lines by Mrs. Fraser, who has been passing some time here with us, and who has been made a widow on our shores by the cruel hands of the blacks, after suffering shipwreck. Poor Mrs. Fraser, after witnessing the death of her husband from the ill-usage of the blacks; had to submit to great cruelties and hardships, until, through God’s mercy, she was rescued by a party who were sent in search of the shipwrecked crew.

“Mrs. Fraser is about to proceed to her children in Scotland ; and should she pass through London in her way, and find an opportunity, will make you a short visit.”*

Mr. Baxter, the second officer of the Stirling Castle, having seen an account in the newspapers, waited upon his lordship, and produced a letter addressed to him by the daughter of his deceased relative, Captain Fraser, which he received in London, on the 16th of August, in reply to one written by him on the 1st of the same month.

The following are such extracts from the juvenile epistle as we deem advisable to publish. The letter is dated from Stromness, August 10th, 1837.

“I received your kind letter of the 1st of August, dated London, and am happy to hear you are once more arrived in safety in your native land, as it was more than was expected. I have received a letter from my dear mother, upon her arrival in Liverpool, and I am looking for her daily at Stromness. She intimated that she was to call at London and at Greenock before coming to Orkney. It is likely you have seen her before this reaches you. Little was I thinking when at London that it was to be the last interview with my dear father, that I was no more to behold him in this world ; but to be taken away from me by death in such a cruel manner by savages ! But, oh ! that we may meet in that heavenly country, where separation is unknown, to sing the song of the Lamb, through the endless ages of eternity. James and David are fine boys, and attend the school

* Mrs. Fraser was also the bearer of a miniature likeness of Mr. Owen to his mother, a highly respectable lady, residing in the vicinity of London, and she speaks of that gentleman's kindness to her in enthusiastic terms of gratitude.

closely. Give my kind love to your mother, and aunt Mary, and little Hannah, and may every blessing attend them in this world. David sends his love to his cousin Hannah, with half a dozen kisses. I will write again after my mamma's arrival at Stromness, and give you all the particulars. Uncle John would be very happy to receive a letter from you, to give an account of his son lived a heavenly life, for he received an account of his death.

Your affectionate cousin,

“JANE EARL FRASER.”

To Mr. J. Baxter, &c. &c.

In this stage of the inquiry, his lordship was induced to express the satisfaction which he felt, that under such extraordinary circumstances of suffering, he had interfered as chief magistrate to engage the sympathies of the public. Documents continually arrived, and testimony adduced, which strongly confirmed the truth of the statement which had been made to him in the first instance.

Long after we had progressed with our narrative, a letter appeared in many of the London papers, as we have already stated, which excited a sensation, aroused a suspicion, and caused (to use the mildest phrase) many gratuitous and ill-natured remarks. Having previously made an incidental observation in relation to this epistle, we now give it verbatim, our maxim being to conceal nothing from the view of our readers, which is even in the most remote degree connected with this history.

This letter was inserted in the *Morning Advertiser* on the 27th of September, and we give it exactly

as we cut it from the columns of that respectable journal.

MRS. FRASER.

This person, whose extraordinary adventures amongst savages have lately excited the sympathy of the public, is now suspected of being an impostor. It appears she is not in distress, but the wife of Greene, the captain of the vessel in which she came to England. The following is a copy of a letter transmitted by Mr. Dowling, Inspector of Police at Liverpool, to the Lord Mayor:—

“ Central Police-office, Liverpool.

“ MY LORD—Finding that a person calling herself Mrs. Fraser, the widow of the unfortunate master of the Stirling Castle, has been making a statement to your Lordship in order to excite the compassion of the humane and obtain money, I think it my duty to acquaint you that she landed here some few weeks back, and applied to me, detailing the same circumstances of distress as those which appear to have interested your Lordship in her behalf. I communicated with the mayor and parochial authorities of the town, who most humanely entered upon the pleasing task of giving her effectual relief; but on the second interview I had with her, an evident exaggeration of her sufferings whilst in captivity, caused a suspicion, and her relief was suspended till inquiries were made, when it turned out that she had married in Sydney, New South Wales, the master of the vessel in which she arrived here, (the Mediterranean Packet) who is a man in good circumstances, and who it now appears accompanied her to London (leaving his vessel here in dock,) no doubt solely for the purpose of raising money by imposing on your Lordship and the public. Her husband, whose name is Greene, is the person who so warm-heartedly confirmed her statement before your Lordship.

“ Her explanation upon the discovery of her imposition,

attempted here was, that her husband (Greene) used her very ill, and she wished to go to London and separate from him; and he, on being sent for, agreed to furnish her with the means to go; after which, however, they remained here some time, and I saw her on more than one occasion elegantly dressed. The mate of the vessel stated that she had a very good wardrobe, and it is certain that, as the wife of Greene, she cannot be in distress.

“ I am, my Lord, your Lordship’s most obedient servant,
(Signed) “ M. M. G. DOWLING,
“ Commissioner of Police.”

About the same period, Mrs. Fraser (for at present so we shall designate her,) sent a letter to the editor of the *Morning Advertiser*, which being inserted in that journal on the 29th of September, was as a matter of course transcribed into other papers, and therefore had a wide circulation; which letter we also insert with the double view of extending it, as she gives her own reasons for keeping secret the relation in which she stood to Captain Greene of the Mediterranean Packet, the gentleman who brought her to England.

The following is an exact copy of the letter alluded to, and upon which, and the other epistolary correspondence, we shall make a few remarks by and by.

To the Editor of the Morning Advertiser.

SIR,—Glancing over the *Morning Advertiser* of the 27th instant, I observed a copy of a letter that had been transmitted to the Lord Mayor, by a Mr. M. G. Dowling, Police Inspector at Liverpool, but to which no date is affixed.

You will allow me to inform you and the public, that the said letter was received at the Mansion-house about a month since,

and that the contents, after having been analysed, did not seem to prejudice the mind of his lordship against me ; neither do I now conclude its having effected a change, though it has now emanated therefrom, and appeared before the public.

With regard to the charges therein against me, I further beg to be permitted to explain the cause which stimulated me to proceed hither, which, I presume, will remove from the public mind every idea of being an impostor, as the writer impudently alleges.

In the first place, I came to London to ascertain the real position of the late Captain Fraser's affairs, whose transactions with various parties remained open when the *Stirling Castle* sailed from the St. Katherine's Docks.

Secondly, my instructions at Sydney were, on my arrival in Liverpool to proceed to London, appear personally before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and pray that Government would extend relief to my orphan children.

Immediately after arriving, I proceeded to the Colonial office, but could not obtain an audience with his lordship, or any further understanding relative to my petition, than that I would be written to in the course of two or three days. After having waited upwards of a week, and receiving no communication whatever therefrom, I at length came to a resolution (as the only alternative remaining) to appear in person before the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, who, after hearing the detailed narrative of my personal sufferings among the New Hollanders, and the destitution of my orphans, kindly expressed his readiness to be in any wise instrumental to alleviate the distressed circumstances of my family.

I would further observe, that when an appeal was made to public sympathy, it was understood at the Mansion-house that whatever the humane and benevolent community would deposit in the hands of the Lord Mayor, should be appropriated solely for the benefit of my three children.

Regarding the writer's allegations against Captain Greene, I would have him know that he is no impostor, neither did he

leave his vessel in dock with an intention of imposing on the Lord Mayor of the city of London, nor yet the public; but with a view, after having settled his own private affairs, to return to New Zealand.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Sept. 28, 1837.

E. A. GREENE (late Fraser).

With respect to the letter written by Mr. Wilberforce to the Lord Mayor, and the extract it contained from one written by Stephen Owen, Esq., we shall only observe, *en passant*, that the document alone goes to prove that Mrs. GREENE was the person she represented herself to be, viz., the widow of Capt. Fraser, and her identity was abundantly confirmed by packages of which she was the bearer to this country.

That her sufferings have been of a very extraordinary kind, has already been fully established by the publication of Lieut. Otter's letter; and we repeat, that we feel convinced we have much under-rated those sufferings, as we have in our possession facts connected with the brutal treatment of this helpless woman, (and could produce a living witness who would verify them on oath,) which, if we dared to publish, would excite an involuntary shudder of horror and disgust in every well-regulated mind.

The extracts we have made from the simple epistle of Capt. Fraser's eldest child, written to Baxter, her relative, and one of the officers of her unfortunate father, speaks for itself, and the simple

style in which it is written will, we doubt not, excite a sympathetic feeling in the mind of her own sex, which will doubtless be increased, when the letter of the Rev. P. Learmouth is referred to, which depicts in glowing colours the state of destitution in which the young female and her two brothers have long been placed. (Vide page 121).

With respect to the letter written by Mr. Dowling, we shall make a few remarks, and we are bound to do so in justice to ourselves, and for the information of our readers. We know Mr. Dowling to be a most honourable and intelligent gentleman, and well qualified to fill the high situation which he occupies in the second commercial port in the empire. And we are also assured that he possesses too much humanity to make a statement which he knew would have a tendency to stem the current of generosity when directed to any individual, much less would he do so in a case where three destitute orphan children were to be the recipients of the contributions of the benevolent, and who were rendered fatherless under circumstances the most appalling. His letter has however, had that temporary effect, and we are sure that when Mr. Dowling learns the fact, he will regret it; but it is quite evident that when he wrote it, he was not aware into what channel the streams of benevolence were flowing.

Of the fact stated by Mr. Dowling, of the marriage of Mrs. Fraser with Capt. Greene, of course

we were ignorant ; and, as there was no document to attest it, we were willing to doubt the accuracy of those who had given the information to that gentleman upon the subject.

When the parties next returned to London, (for they had been in the suburbs,) it was deemed advisable to investigate the fact ; and a rev. gentleman, who had taken an interest in the affair, sought an interview with Capt. Greene ; and when it took place, he candidly told that gentleman a rumour was abroad that he had married, or was about to marry, Mrs. Fraser.

Capt. Greene frankly acknowledged the fact, and much regretted that it had been concealed ; but, as her papers were signed by the authorities at Sydney, while she was yet a widow, it was thought advisable by her, that she should present herself as such to the Home Government, as the change in her condition of life did not alter the destitute position in which her fatherless children stood. It is due to Capt. Greene to state that he expressed great regret that there had been any concealment about the matter ; but he spurns the insinuation that “ he accompanied her to London (leaving his vessel in dock,) no doubt solely for the purpose of raising money by imposing on the Lord Mayor and the public.” With this part of Mr. Dowling’s letter we have nothing to do ; but, leaving him and Capt. Greene to fight their own battle, we cannot refrain from remarking that from what we have seen and heard of Capt. Greene, we think

him incapable of being influenced by sinister motives, or to be guilty of "gross imposition."

Then, as it respects Mrs. Greene, much may be said in palliation of her offence, for such we readily deem it, and so it has been intimated to her. It appears quite evident, when she first came to London, that neither she nor Capt. Greene had the most remote idea of appealing to the public. She came furnished with documents from the governor of the colony she had left, which she hoped would be favourably received by the government; but after a long journey to London, and waiting several days, she learned, much to her astonishment and sorrow, that her Majesty's Secretary of State, to whom her petition and papers were addressed, did not so entertain them as to hold out hope of receiving pecuniary or other aid from that quarter, for the benefit of her destitute children.

It is worthy of remark, too, that at the time of this application, the fact of her second marriage was not known, so that it could not have been a barrier to the prayer of her petition.

There is something said in Mr. Dowling's letter, respecting matrimonial jars between the married couple before they left Liverpool. With that we have nothing to do; it might be so, it might not; but as our oft-quoted Olney poet says,—

"The kindest and the happiest pair
Will find occasion to forbear;
And something every day they live,
To pity, and perhaps forgive."

We were often in the company of Capt. Greene and his wife, and long before it was known in what relation they stood to each other. It then occurred to us, from the mutual attentions paid, that the lady would at no distant period be Mrs. Greene ; but in our ignorant speculation, it again occurred to our mind, that her unremitting attention to the gentleman arose from a grateful recollection of favours which he had bestowed in bringing her as an exile from the most distant part of the globe to her native country.

We are aware that Mrs. Greene is charged with great indiscretion in so speedily throwing off the weeds of widowhood. If this be an error, it is one into which many have fallen ; as when *the proper mate is chosen*, ladies as well as gentlemen make the *proper time for marrying* quite a secondary consideration.

Here she was in Sydney, in a state bordering upon utter destitution. She became acquainted with Capt. Greene, a gentleman well-known and highly respected there, and supposed to be a person in very comfortable circumstances. Perhaps he first viewed her, as did hundreds of others, as an object of commiseration ; and at length pity gave way to a platonic affection, which ripened into a more tender sensibility.

Capt. Greene could not have been induced to an alliance with the view of aggrandizement, and therefore we must believe him to have been

actuated by a manly and honourable feeling when he entered the sanctuary of God, and solemnly pledged himself to a poor, forlorn, debilitated female, that he would "take her for better for worse," and succour and comfort her all the days of his life.

Here was Mrs. Fraser, a virtuous woman, struggling with adversity, who, in devotion to her husband, with whom she had lived in connubial felicity for eighteen years, left all, to journey with him to the most distant part of another hemisphere, regardless alike of danger and death. Capt. Greene had offered her a passage home in the *Mediterranean Packet* weeks before he proposed the question which had reference to the altar of Hymen. Supposing Mrs. Fraser had given a decided negative to that question, and she had sailed a five months' voyage as a "companion," instead of a "wife,"—what then? Her virtue would doubtless have been preserved, (for virtuous who can doubt her to have been?) but her reputation probably might not; for even then, superficial readers, depreciating gossips (men as well as women) would have insinuated by rascally inuendoes, that which would have robbed her of her fair fame; and all these, too, emanating from persons who knew nothing of her, and never took the trouble to consider the precarious situation in which she stood.

We have already conceded that she has acted unwisely in concealing a fact, which, had it been

acknowledged, could not have branded either her or her new partner with dishonour: although it might have caused a degree of censure among the slanderers and prudes of the day, yet by some it would have been considered a romantic adventure, and by others, a "holy alliance." She has, we admit, acted foolishly in concealing *a fact*; but that ought to be construed in the most favourable terms. Had she stated, and persisted in *a falsehood*, then the case would have been different, and she would not have interested the writer of this history in the attempt to palliate her offence. Had that been the case, she would have found no advocate in him, but, as far as he is concerned, would have been left as an object of well-merited contumely.

Having made these remarks, we beseech our readers to forget her error, which at most is a venial one; and let those who have thought uncharitably of her reflect, that had they been placed in the same circumstances, and surrounded with the same difficulties, and having the same gloomy prospect before them, they might have fallen into the same snare, and entered into a *provident*, though according to the general notion of the world, a *premature* and ill-timed alliance. She is fully aware that she has sinned against strict etiquette, and been guilty of an indiscreet secrecy; and we are ready to admit these facts; but without her knowledge, we have attempted an apology.

But after all, what has this deviation from etiquette and propriety to do with her previous history and its heart-rending sufferings? Moreover, why should it have an unfavourable effect upon the minds of the well-disposed part of the community, in respect of her destitute orphans? Even had the widow of the lamented Captain Fraser been volatile and gay—yea, had she evinced the most unblushing and barefaced depravity; would it in any way have changed the destitute condition of her three poor children, the legitimate offspring of a brave and unfortunate man? Surely not. Then, where, we ask, is the propriety of exclaiming, as some have,—“We will not contribute to the fund for the benefit of the orphans?” Why not? has the mother committed any act of immorality? Not that we are aware of. What is it then? what evil has she done? *Why, she has concealed from us the fact, that she married Captain Greene of the Mediterranean Packet!*

With respect to Mrs. Greene’s letter to the Morning Advertiser, we shall make no comments on it, but we point out that passage to our readers where she declares—

“I at length came to the resolution to appear before the Lord Mayor in person, who, after hearing the detailed narrative of my personal sufferings among the New Hollanders, and the destitution of my orphans, kindly expressed his readiness to be in anywise instrumental to alleviate the distressed circumstances of my family.

“I would further observe, that when an appeal was made to

public sympathy, it was understood at the Mansion House that whatever the humane and benevolent community would deposit in the hands of the Lord Mayor should be appropriated solely for the benefit of my three children."

In consequence of the publicity which was given to Mr. Dowling's letter, and the remarks which were made on it by certain parts of the public press, the chief magistrate appears to have felt it imperative on him to write an explanatory letter, in order to place the matter to which Mr. Dowling had referred in its proper light, and if possible, thereby to stem the torrent of unmerited censure, sarcasm and reflection; and his lordship's effort appears (at the period we are writing) to have produced the desired effect.

In fairness to the implicated, we subjoin the letter in reply.

"Mr. EDITOR,—Having observed in the morning papers of the 27th instant, the copy of a letter sent from Liverpool, to the Lord Mayor, relative to statements made by Mrs. Fraser; it becomes necessary, for the satisfaction of those benevolent persons who came forward to alleviate her distresses, to say, that the fact of her marriage with Captain Greene was kept back by her on her first application at the Mansion House, but the Lord Mayor having received a letter from Lieutenant Otter, fully substantiating the account of her sufferings, and the murder of her husband, (who bore a most excellent character) as well as from the Rev. Peter Learmouth, minister of Stromness, of the destitute state of the children of Captain Fraser; determined to let the subscriptions proceed for their benefit: and Mr. Learmouth and the kirk session have undertaken for the same being disposed of in the manner most conducive to their future welfare;

Mrs. Greene herself receiving but a moderate sum for necessities, and to convey her to Stromness.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS KELLY, Mayor.

Mansion House, September 28th.

A lord mayor, and even personages standing much higher on the graduated ladder of "social compact," from the elevated station which they occupy, must ever expect to become the objects of praise or censure, according to the estimation in which their motives and actions are rated: and they are too often, without cause, subjected to illiberal and ribald attacks, in order to supply with food the vitiated palates of those who seldom exercise the little understanding of which they are masters, either to condemn a bad action or to appreciate a good one.

With respect to the part which his lordship has taken in regard to the orphan children of the late Capt. Fraser, we consider it meritorious and praiseworthy, and it was to be expected that he would have been exempted from sarcasm, and shielded from the charge of credulity. We would have those who made that charge know, that his lordship is not a gentleman to be easily gulled; on the contrary, he is rather sceptical than otherwise, and examines matters with a scrutiny, which by some, perhaps, might almost be deemed fastidious, before he expresses his opinion upon any subject. As a magistrate, he has been proverbial for rigidly search-

ing after truth, in order to ascertain whether deception lurked beneath plausible representations. In the matter now under review, his lordship and his secretaries have been unremitting; and whoever may attempt to rob him of well-earned laurels, the orphan children of Captain Fraser will, doubtless, estimate his kindness so long as they exist.

His lordship, who, we believe, acted under the voice of a provisional committee, thought proper to act in the manner he has, in reference to the circumstance which gave rise to his letter, and upon which we offer no further comment.

With respect to the amount of subscriptions already received, we are ignorant, but we know that temporary aid has been afforded where it was most needed: and before we conclude our labours, the public will be furnished with the amount received by his lordship; and the manner in which it has been, or is meant to be appropriated, will be detailed in our columns, as it forms one of the component parts of our history.*

* The author hopes he will not be charged with egotism when he states, that his literary associates have signified to him their entire satisfaction at *the manner* in which he has replied to the letter of Mr. Dowling; and, prognosticating that during his future short voyage he will have a fair gale and a smooth sea, they have advised him to "heave anchor," and set his sails.

CHAPTER XVII.

“That in the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word may be established.”

MATT. xviii. 16.

“We’ve confirmation strong as holy writ.”

SHAKSPEARE.

THE NARRATIVE, &c. OF ROBERT DARGE.

THE name of Robert Darge has frequently occurred in the foregoing pages. He was one of the seamen taken on board at Sydney, when Capt. Fraser was about to proceed from thence to Singapore, and one of the crew who has reason to be thankful that he fared better, during his sojourn among the savages, than the majority of his companions. Being a native of Scotland, and an able-bodied seaman, he obtained an appointment to a vessel bound from Sydney to London, after he was rendered, by medical attention, “fit for sea.”

This person, having seen the accounts published in the journals of the statements made by Mrs. Fraser and Mr. Baxter, came to London without the knowledge of either of them, and presented

himself before the Lord Mayor, by whom he was interrogated, with the intent that he should either confirm or invalidate the testimony of the previous narrators.

When subjected to interrogation, he said that, but for seeing the published accounts, he should not have known that Baxter or any of his late companions had been in London. We consider the statement of this man very important to the purpose for which we are induced to use it; that is, as *a link in the chain of confirmation*, and we deem it the more valuable, because it is quite clear that there was a shyness between him and Baxter, and, whether she had just cause or not, we know that he was no favourite with Mrs. Fraser. It may be recollected that Darge was one of the first to start the pinnace party; and before he left Capt. Fraser and the small remnant of the crew behind, he insisted upon an equal division of the fire-arms and ammunition, which gave considerable umbrage at the time, and the circumstance is not erased from the mind of the captain's widow.

He stated that when in the hands of the natives, he was worked so hard continually, that his health was greatly impaired, and he was reduced to a mere skeleton; indeed, so deeply rooted were the injuries which he had sustained, though more favourably dealt with than it appeared Mrs. Fraser, Baxter, and others had been, he questioned whether he should ever entirely recover his former strength.

He appears to attribute his suffering more to the severity of his labour, and being exposed naked to heavy rains, dense fogs, and furious blasts, than to acts of torture practised on his person by the natives. It is the opinion of Darge, that the tribe to which he was attached was more humane than that with which Captain Fraser, his wife, Baxter, Brown, and others, were connected ; and no doubt he is right in his conjecture, for all writers agree that the zero of civilization is at the northern point of Australia, and proceeding thence along the coast southward, the tribes of natives become gradually less sanguinary. One of the causes assigned for this difference of character, is that the natives on the southern part of the continent of New Holland are better supplied with provisions than their northern brethren ; hence their minds are not so liable to be excited by the pinchings of hunger. Darge confirms the statements of the previous narrators with respect to the manners and customs of the natives, and says that all captives as well as themselves, are subjected to a state of nudation, without regard to age, sex, or condition.*

* There appears to be one deviation alone from the general rule, according to the concurrent statement of all the party. Young women, before they unite with the other sex, (for marriage it can hardly be called,) generally wear a piece of bark fastened round the waist ; but afterwards, even this frail attempt at decency is cast aside.

When questioned as to whether, although the natives had killed some of his companions, he had any serious apprehensions for the safety of his own life, Darge replied that generally speaking he had no such apprehension, but he could not very well define the reason why he considered himself more liable to exemption from destruction than others; a fair inference, however, is, that being naturally an abler-bodied man, they considered his services more valuable than some of the less muscular portion of the captives. There was, he said, a general deep-rooted hatred in the breasts of the natives to white men; and the reason which he assigns for its being engendered is the fact of their having been frequently and sometimes very wantonly fired upon by the soldiery and constabulary force connected with the colonial settlement. He mentioned the fact of one of the men belonging to his tribe having lost his leg owing to a shot from one of the military, who had an inveterate enmity to him, and he insidiously attempted his life several times. The deprivation of a limb, which rendered him wholly unfit for hunting and fishing excursions, caused him often to be worked up to a fit of frenzy.

The narrator proceeded to state that intercourse frequently takes place between the natives on the southern coast of Australia and the military, and it not unfrequently happened that these tribes would betray a bush-ranger into their hands for the reward of a moco or axe. There were some run-

away convicts whom government evinced more anxiety to recover than others; and whenever this was the case, some one of the less barbarous tribes was sure to be employed to restore him into their hands; and for any important service rendered, they were sometimes rewarded with a fish-hook, which they highly prize, and call it *gillu-gillu*. When interrogated as to whether the men were attached to their "*ginns*," and behaved kindly to them on general occasions; he replied, that they were very cruel to them, and treated them shamefully; yet he could discover that while they were often beaten with brutal severity, the offspring were indulged in every way in their power. From what he had heard, he had no doubt but that some of the tribes along the coast were guilty of cannibalism, but he saw nothing to induce the belief that the tribe with which he located was; at all events, if the fact was so, he never saw any human flesh served up in their daily repasts. Darge also states with Baxter, that the natives never give any thing into the hand of their captives, but throw the article intended to be conveyed, at them, the miserable allowance of food not excepted. Sometimes he had only some fish-bones to make a dinner of; and when they were cast at him, the children used every endeavour to deprive him of his scanty morsel, and in this attempt, the dogs, which have also a great aversion to a white person, used to join, so that he often lost a portion of

the food which had been intended for him. He fully confirmed the statements of Mrs. Fraser and Baxter as to the mode of decorating their captives, after they had denuded them of their European clothing. He describes, that after they had smeared his head with gum, they put the long feathers of cockatoos and parrots on each side of it, between which they inserted small feathers of the most beautiful birds which abound in that otherwise desolate region. It appears that his was one of the red tribes; for in order that he should appear as much like one of themselves as possible, they coloured his eye-brows and cheeks with a deep red-ochre; in fact, they made him look "a perfect fright." There was one painful operation to which Darge was subjected, which Baxter escaped, it not being so general a custom among the black as the red tribes, viz. plucking out the hair, beard, and whiskers by the roots. The pain which the poor fellow endured was excruciating; indeed it was more than he could bear. It should be observed, however, that in inflicting this punishment, they were influenced by etiquette or fashion, rather than by a desire to cause bodily anguish, for they all practise the same custom on one another, as to be beardless and whiskerless is in their rude minds a mark of beauty. During the course of initiation, they daubed him all over from head to foot with gum and red-ochre, and then pointed with the finger of command to the water, to which he was to

go, and behold the horrid metamorphosis which he had undergone. Notwithstanding the natives could see themselves very plain in the smooth, glass-like ocean, they were so intent upon the toilet, and securing the *beauty* of their persons, that they formed small vessels of pieces of bark, in order to hold water, to enable them to have a stedfast gaze at their grotesque head-dress, and they were indulgent enough to request Darge to have recourse to the same expedient. He states that the tribe he was with were very expert fishermen, and much attached to the sport, but in that employment he was seldom indulged, his labour being by far more irksome. Sometimes, but very rarely, a large fish got into the shallows, near the beach, from which it was unable to retreat, until the flow of the tide. One of their modes of attack was by hurling a spear at it, which they can send to a great distance; and when that failed, the whole party went into the sea with an immense net, in the capacious meshes of which they entwined the finny captive, and dragged him to the shore, with repeated cooheeing, and other symptoms of rejoicing. The fishing nets are made of the soft fibres of the bark of a resinous tree, which are extremely strong, and when joined together, the natives call them "*corrigin*."

Darge, who appears to be a sensible man, endeavoured to ascertain whether they performed any acts of devotion, or observed religious rites or

ceremonies of any kind ; but he could make no discovery, so as to warrant a full belief that they worshipped any divinity ; but if they paid adoration at all, it was to the moon, which at its change caused great rejoicing, and they called it "*Curroburo.*"

He proceeded to state that he did not see any person connected with the Stirling Castle, killed. He had separated from Captain Fraser some time before the melancholy death of that gentleman ; and it may be recollected that he took the command of the pinnace, which was afterwards lost, and the crew fell into the hands of the natives. After Darge had remained some time with one tribe, he was turned over to another ; when, to his astonishment, as well as gratification, he found two white men connected with it. They were both English convicts, and one of them had been in the bush five years, and the other ten years. One of these bush-rangers they called "*Tursi,*" and the other, who was a person of great altitude, christened himself "*Tallboy.*" They were both completely naked, and *Tursi* told him that he committed an offence in England for which he was doomed to suffer death, but eventually his punishment was commuted to banishment to New South Wales for life. The measure of his iniquity not being full, he continued his predatory habits on his arrival in the colony, and being apprehended was convicted, and a second time cast for death ; which

sentence would have assuredly been carried into execution, had he not been fortunate enough to make his escape to the bush. Time appeared to have reconciled the mind of this daring outlaw to his fate, for he said that he was perfectly satisfied with the vagabond wandering life he led, and had made up his mind to live and die there. This person is described as being of an intelligent and communicative turn of mind; but although he expressed himself in the language of resignation, if not of contentment, his body, and that of his fugitive companion, was reduced to a mere skeleton. To us it appears that the seeming apathy of this man, and the callousness to his destiny evinced by *Tallboy*, may be accounted for on the ground that they had only the choice of two dreadful evils, and they preferred that which was the most tolerable. Were they to offend the natives, and be delivered by them into the hands of the government authorities, death, or a punishment more painful and protracted, inevitably awaited them. *Tursi* informed Darge that he had always been on the sea coast during every successive winter, which created great alarm in his mind, and had an unfavourable influence upon his health, as the chance of his being taken by a scouring party, or company of traders, was much greater than when in the interior. He congratulated himself that summer was approaching, when he should accompany his tribe up to the mountains in quest of honey

and kangaroos. The nectar, which in a favourable season is collected in great quantities, is carefully preserved for the winter consumption, and in the summer they live principally upon young kangaroos, the natives not having the knowledge of the art of preserving the flesh of these animals, and if they did possess it, their immense distance from the sea (sometimes 200 and 300 miles) would preclude them from providing a winter stock. From the best sources of information within our reach, we are of opinion that by nature these natives are so indolent, that they would not exert themselves if the means of preservation were to be showered around their rude encampments—in fact they obey at least one scriptural injunction,—*“ Take no thought for the morrow what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink,”* &c.

The narrator then stated the manner in which he contrived to escape, which was briefly as follows. He, as well as Carrallis and Youlden, his companions, by obedient servitude, kept on tolerable terms with the natives; and, perhaps, their condition was in some degree meliorated by the interference of the two bush-rangers, who being well versed in the language of the savages, explained that the captives were their countrymen. Youlden was very ill in consequence of hard labour and scanty fare; and the heart of one of the natives seemed to be moved by pity. Darge made this man a confidant, and promised that if he would

convey them to some place near to where the colonists resided, he should be rewarded with a "*moco*" (axe,) and some "*gillu gillues*," (fishing hooks.) The temptation was too powerful to be withstood, and the plan was laid, and they only had to wait patiently for a favourable opportunity to put it in execution, which was very precarious, as the tribe were on the eve of proceeding on their way from the vicinity of the sea-shore to the mountains. At length the long-desired day arrived, and Darge, Carrallis, and Youlden, withdrew from the encampment, accompanied by the native, who was well acquainted with every mountain, ravine, and pass, in this interminable thicket. They had not proceeded far on their hazardous journey ere the strength of Youlden failed him; he could proceed no farther, and the other parties were so debilitated that they were unable to carry him. They had no alternative but to leave him in the bush, perhaps to starve! They well knew the danger of parleying, for if the tribe should overtake them, destruction was inevitable, and of such a catastrophe even the native conductor evinced a dreadful anticipation. The separation was a painful one, but it was necessary, and Youlden was forced to yield to a fate which appeared inevitable, for by Darge's account there seemed to be "*but a step between him and death.*" Before the bewildered travellers left their companion, they both solemnly pledged themselves that if their own

deliverance was effected, they would not lose a moment in attempting his rescue, by availing themselves of the assistance of their conductor, who would be able to retrace his steps to the spot. Poor fellow! what must have been the sensations of his mind when he saw his fellow shipmates, as he might well suppose, for the last time, as they passed through the thicket?—We cannot by possibility conceive. Happily for the invalid, his deliverance was near at hand, and never was the truth of the proverb, “Man’s extremity is God’s opportunity,” more forcibly verified than in the case of Youlden.*

The two exiles and their sable conductor had not proceeded many miles after they left their companion, ere they heard shots fired at short intervals. Never did they hear so welcome a sound; joy and gladness chased away fatigue and sorrow—they believed that the hour of emancipation had arrived; and to use the emphatic expression of Darge, “Our hearts leaped within us for joy.” As may be supposed, however, the poor native who was auxiliary to their escape, was filled with

* We understand that notwithstanding his partial recovery was effected by the aid of medical attention, both at Moreton Bay and subsequently at Sydney, his constitution was so much impaired by labour, cruel usage, and anxiety, that he afterwards relapsed, and became a victim to a pulmonary complaint, at the early age of twenty-four.

different sensations, for all the Australian tribes have an inveterate dread and hatred of fire-arms, and the reports of the guns caused him to tremble, yet the hope of obtaining the promised rewards prompted him, in some degree, to screw up his courage.

After the lapse of a little time, the sensation of joy was raised to its highest pitch—an object met their view—it could not be a delusion—what was that object? An European soldier in a foraging dress of British uniform. And who was that soldier?—Why, it was a gentleman who afterwards became a bold adventurer; it was the gallant Lieutenant Otter!* It appears that Mr. Otter, with several friends, were out on parole to indulge in a shooting excursion, and a kind Providence directed him to this spot, which circumstance resulted in the salvation of several fellow-mortals from a degrading captivity. When Lieutenant Otter approached

* The author, with exultation, refers his readers, and particularly those who indulged in ill-natured remarks, and circulated unfounded surmises, to the letter written by Lieutenant Otter, (vide page 182,) and fearlessly asks them whether scepticism can any longer inherit their minds? Is THE HISTORY OF THE WRECK OF THE STIRLING CASTLE “*a cunningly-devised fable,*” or what he pledged it should be,—a plain unvarnished narrative of *truth*?

“Tack to the larboard, and stand off to sea;
For it runs smooth, the wind is fair,—
The canvas spread,—away we go!”—*Fitz Ball.*

Darge and Carrallis, he was surprised to find that they accosted him in the English language, and the first impression on his mind was that they were bush-rangers (fugitive convicts); and had that been the fact, there can be no doubt but he would have done his duty. At this time the news of the wreck of the Stirling Castle had not reached Moreton Bay, and Darge was the first to give the melancholy recital. Finding that they were shipwrecked British sailors, no time was lost in administering comfort to their bodies and minds. The gallant officer being joined by some of his sporting companions, they were hastily informed of the precarious state of poor Youlden, who lay at a few miles distance in the bush, and, as may be supposed, humanity directed their attention to that quarter. The services of the native conductor were again called into active requisition; and after partaking of a slight repast, and receiving an assurance of a handsome reward, he started with the coxswain of the vessel and others, and on the following morning they arrived with the invalid borne on their shoulders, when he met with the kindest treatment which limited means could bestow. After hearing the recital of the party, Lieutenant Otter determined to forego his own pleasure, and proceed to Brisbane river forthwith, in order that succour might be afforded to the invalided party who had thus accidentally fallen into his care; and the wind being favourable to

his views, his little bark soon glided over the expansive bay to the penal settlement. No sooner had he arrived than a council was held, at which Captain Fyans, the commandant, or as he is more officially termed, the lieutenant-governor, presided. The particulars, as far as they could be elicited from Darge, who commanded the pinnace after the major part of the crew abandoned Captain Fraser, were carefully reduced to writing. As Darge and Carrallis could only account for the fate of the pinnace crew, a wide field of conjecture was opened as to what had become of Captain Fraser, his wife, and Baxter and Brown; but the natural inference was that they were in captivity on the coast near where the pinnace separated from the long-boat company. It having been conceded on all hands that prompt measures should be adopted, the officers connected with the little garrison were asked which of them would volunteer to command the exploring party, when Lieutenant Otter stepped forth, and exclaimed, "*Here I am, send me.*" As neither himself nor any of the file of soldiers who accompanied him were versed in the knowledge of the jargon of the Australians, for language it cannot well be called, it was obvious that they needed an interpreter. The eyes of the privy council were then directed towards that class of their captives termed "captured bush-rangers," when it was unanimously agreed that Graham would be a very proper person to act in

that important capacity, not only on account of the intelligence of his mind, but from his knowledge of the language, habits and customs of the natives, among whom he had lived as a fugitive for nearly six years, and thereby had, in a great degree, secured their confidence. Graham was sent for, and interrogated as to the facilities he could probably afford in the enterprise, and everything was explained to him with regard to locality, as far as could be ascertained by the evidence before them. At the conclusion Graham suggested such measures as he thought best to effect the rescue of the survivors from the wreck. One of his plans was a very simple one, and that was, that Lieutenant Otter should be provided with a good number of "mocoos," and himself with some tinsel and small articles of but little value: these suggestions were wisely adopted, and the result of the venture (if we may so term it) has already been particularized in another place. Graham, notwithstanding he had broken the laws of his native country, and moreover those also of the colony to which he was banished, and in the end a runaway, was respected by his superiors on account both of his native talent, and the decorous manner in which he conducted himself; but the recollection of his expertness prohibited those little indulgences which humanity might have induced the commandant to bestow. It was well known that his besetting *sin* was a desire for liberty, and no

wonder. Captain Fyans considered that the best plan he could adopt to excite the spirit of enterprise in the captive was to exercise the discretionary power he possessed to its utmost extent; hence he pledged himself to Graham, that if he would bend the energies of his mind to the accomplishment of the desired object, in case of his efforts being successful he should immediately be released from the penal settlement, and "a ticket of leave" granted him to return to Sydney. As a further stimulus to exertion, he was told that if his conduct warranted further interference on his behalf, the governor of the colony would recommend him to the British government as a fit object to receive a free pardon. Graham, with a beating heart, gladly joined issue to the terms proposed, and it was not long before the expedition started; and the happy result of the cruise has already been made known to our readers. The steady manner in which he proceeded (for every thing was left to him,) enabled Lieutenant Otter to make a favourable report, and the rescued lady and the other survivors rejoiced to see him divested of the manacles and badges of slavery, when he had, at the risk of his life, rescued them from a more horrible slavery, if possible, than his own.*

* The author could, if he pleased, inform his readers of the nature of the offence for which the gallant fellow was banished by the fiat of the judges at the Justice Hall, Old Bailey, about

Having, from obvious and we hope not improper reasons, digressed from following the recital of Darge, the narrator under review, we resume his statement.

When asked whether he was present when Mrs. Frazer arrived at Moreton Bay, he replied that he was, and he assisted in carrying her to her place of domicile, as she was emaciated and quite unable to walk. (*Here is confirmation again.*) Darge, in conclusion, gave us a description of the appearance of the various tribes he noticed, and enumerated the marks and circumstances by which they were distinguished, some of which

fourteen years ago, but he thinks it prudent to throw a veil over the past—suffice it to say it was, when compared with the crimes of many others who have been expatriated, a venial offence; and what is more, the only one which he is known to have committed, or at all events convicted of, before he was sentenced to exile. During the time that Graham was on his expedition he kept a regular “log,” as our narrators call it, but what we would term a diary of all the incidents which occurred while he was prowling in the bush apart from the lieutenant and his party; and on his return home with the prize, which obtained his partial liberty, he wrote a piece of poetry on the melancholy subject of which our history treats, which does credit both to his head and his heart.

The document, in his own handwriting, is in Liverpool, and application has been made for it; and we hope, ere long, to be favoured with the loan of it, for the purpose of insertion. From what we have heard from those who have perused it, we are led to think it would form a gem in our history.

were natural, while others were artificial. Although born in the same latitude, there appears to be a marked difference between the natives in a variety of respects. For instance, the hair of the head of some was lank and smooth, while that of others was crisp and bushy, and that of a third of a woolly appearance, somewhat like that on the head of an Africander. There was also a great disparity in respect of feature; some tribes had a projecting, and others a reclining forehead. The noses of others were protuberant, and inclined to aquiline, while that feature in the neighbouring tribe would be flat, and the nostrils distended. Darge is of opinion that the company he had the misery to serve were naturally the ugliest of all created beings; and they rendered themselves the more so by fastidious and voluntary deformations. For instance, in order to make themselves as hideous as possible, at least in the estimation of a European, they used to bore a hole through their nostrils, in which they inserted a piece of the skin of a kangaroo or some other quadruped, which answered the purpose of artificial mustachios. All the parties that we have conversed with agree that, generally speaking, the altitude of the men is above the ordinary average standard; yet from this rule there are occasional deviations. The natives of both sexes are remarkable for muscular power and agility; yet, except when necessity excites their energies, a more lazy

set of vagabonds cannot exist. They appear to be under the arbitrary control of animal instinct; and it may be said of them, (and we mention it more out of commiseration at their degraded condition, than of contempt of the moral and intellectual debasement of our species,)—they are “*earthly, sensual, devilish.*”

The women belonging to some of the tribes are reported as possessing far more comely features than the males, and many of the girls, before they arrive at the age of puberty, are deemed handsome; but they are utterly devoid of those tender sensibilities, which shed a halo around European females. In one respect, they manifest a great anxiety, and that is, for the well-being of their tender offspring; but what of that?—the lioness and leopardess do the same.

The females appear to be more cruel to those in their power than the men; but this may not arise from innate principle, but engendered by the cruel manner in which they are treated by their sable and imperious lords; since living in a state of promiscuous concubinage, they have no one to whom they can fly for protection in the hour of insult and coercion.

It may be proper to observe, that when the narrators were interrogated, they were apart from each other; indeed, it is our belief, that on no occasion, if they accidentally came in contact, any thing passed between them. We mention this, in order to show, that there could be no pre-

concert; we never suspected that there was any, but the plan was adopted, in order to see how their different recitals contradicted each other, or harmonised together. With respect to the latter test, our readers may draw their own conclusions by comparison.

It is readily conceded, that Mrs. Fraser and Baxter placed the natives in a lower scale of degradation, and possessed of greater ferocity, than Darge. But, as we have before hinted, the latter was connected with a tribe, who, during the winter season, located much [nearer the European settlement, and either from fear, or the dawn of civilisation, owing to a more frequent intercourse, certainly did not have recourse to torture, in like manner with the northern tribes, among whom the lady alluded to, and the second officer, were captives. There is a further reason, quite distinct from the above, which will account for the difference of treatment,—his companion, Carrallis, was a man of colour; and the savages are generally less severe in their exactions of labour, and their inflictions of punishment, in respect of them, than the whites. Carrallis, as we have before stated, was somewhat acquainted with the manners and customs of the natives, and being naturally a humane person, he might have interceded for his companion; and it may be, that *Tursi* and *Tallboy* exercised some sway in their councils, for it appears that they had become naturalized—demi-barbarized (?)

After Darge had remained some weeks at Syd-

ney, he sailed for England in a ship which had been provided for him by the interference of the government authorities; and when he gave the detail of his sufferings, he was about to make another voyage to a remote quarter of the earth; but it was quite apparent that the health of the poor fellow had been greatly impaired.*

* It appears, from what we have gathered from all the parties with whom we conversed, that the excitement at Sydney was much increased, owing to several other wrecks which had recently taken place in the vicinity of Torres Straits, particularly that of the Charles Eaton, whose captain and crew, as well as every person on board, were murdered, save a lad of the name of Ireland, and a child named D'Oyley, the son of a captain, whose life was doubtless spared in consequence of the sagacity of the youth who was his companion and protector

We have now arrived at the termination of what in strictness may be denominated the "NARRATIVE" of *the Shipwreck of the Stirling Castle*, but we have yet many other interesting matters, which are connected with that sorrowful detail; and they shall be given ere we close our labours. In the mean time, we call the attention of our readers to the recital of another catastrophe, which in many respects is more appalling in its details than that which has preceded it. After giving a narrative of this dreadful calamity, it will become our duty to give extracts from documents connected with *both histories*, historical quotations, and other interesting communications, together with such original remarks and reflections as upon review may be deemed necessary.

In concluding this part of our labour, we feel it incumbent to insert a hymn appropriately penned by the Rev. G. C. Smith, in allusion to the providential escape of Baxter, Darge, Ireland, and others, from the perils to which they were exposed.

Confidence of sailors! hear us,
 Wanderers o'er the trackless deep;
 Though far off at sea, blest Jesus,
 Thou our Guardian, wilt not sleep;
 Heavenly Pilot,
 All our crew in safety keep!

Confidence of sailors! hear us,
 When the howling tempests roar:
 Thou alone canst help, O Jesus,
Far off from each friendly shore.
 Captain Saviour!
 Steer us till the storm blows o'er.

Confidence of sailors! hear us,
 When becalmed far off at sea,
 'Neath the blazing sun, O Jesus,
 Lead our weary souls to thee:
 Rock-like shadow!
 Lo, we sail along thy *lee*.

Confidence of sailors! guide us
 To the port of endless rest;
 Far from sea and land, O Jesus!—
 North, or south, or east, or west,—
 Lord of glory!
 In thy heaven we shall be bless'd.

Confidence of sailors! steer us,
 When we make blest Canaan's shore;
 Guide us *round the point*, O Jesus,
 Where no waves or tempests roar;
 Hail, fair *haven*!
 Praise our God for evermore!

NARRATIVE OF THE MELANCHOLY WRECK

OF THE -

CHARLES EATON,

ON ONE OF THE

BARRIER REEFS IN THE TORRES STRAITS:

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF

THE MASSACRE

OF THE CAPTAIN, PASSENGERS, AND CREW

AND OF

THE PROVIDENTIAL RESCUE OF JOHN IRELAND, AGED 16, AND
WM. D'OYLEY, AGED 3, FROM THE SAVAGES;

TOGETHER WITH EXTRACTS FROM INTERESTING AND AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS.

CHAPTER XVII.

“I could a tale unfold, whose lightest word
Would harrow up thy soul, freeze thy young blood,
Make thy two eyes, like stars, start from their spheres,
And each particular hair to stand on end,
Like quills upon the fretful porcupine.”

SHAKESPEARE.

IN an early page of the History of the Wreck of the STIRLING CASTLE, we made reference to the fatal catastrophe connected with the foundering and shipwreck of the CHARLES EATON, only a short time antecedent to the loss of the first-named vessel, and hinted that we should append such an account of it, as we might be able to compile from oral

testimony, and original authentic documents. The pledge thus partially made, we are about to redeem. An elegant writer on this mournful subject, when alluding to this heart-rending account, very properly observes:—

“No history can be more interesting or instructive to man, than that of his fellow-men; and there is something in the life and condition of seamen, particularly when on distant voyages, so diversified and so perilous, as to attract the attention, and engage the sympathy even of the the most indifferent. The leading features in the life of a mariner are alternations of prosperity and adversity,—of hope and despair. Bright sunshine, calm skies, tranquil seas, and magnificent views at one time cheer and exhilarate; all is gaiety and confidence, and the seaman, naturally thoughtless, gives himself to the enjoyment of the moment, and looks forward with sanguine expectations to the destined harbour, and all the luxuries of a life on shore. Anon, the sky is overcast, the prospect lowers, waves swell tumultuously over waves,—the tempest fearfully increases,—the vessel becomes unmanageable,—reefs, and rocks, and shoals, and quicksands await them on every side: their life hangs as it were in doubt, for many days, and they have no assurance of ultimate safety. Hence the narratives of those who have escaped shipwreck, with its concomitant hardships and dangers, have always been perused with the liveliest in-

terest, especially when the events are founded on truth, and brought before the public in their natural simplicity, without the meretricious aid and colouring of fiction.”*

This beautiful but hapless vessel was under the command of Capt. Geo. Fred. Moore, and was manned with a suitable complement of men and officers. She left the port of London in December, 1833, and cleared the Thames on the 18th of that month. She arrived at the Cape of Good Hope on the 1st of May following, where she waited for four days, to take in fresh water, &c. &c.; then proceeded to Hobart Town, where she cast anchor on the 15th of June. On the 13th of July, she reached Sydney, and on the 29th of that month, she weighed anchor, to proceed for Canton and Sourabaya. The cargo on board consisted of calicoes and lead, which belonged to Messrs. Gladstones, Drysdale, and Co., merchants in London.

At the time the vessel left Port Jackson, there appear (by an official document, dated Nov. 7th, 1836, signed by Mr. Jeffreys, the Tide Surveyor of the Custom House at Sydney, and transmitted from thence by the Governor of New South Wales, to the Secretary of State for the Colonial depart-

* In the latter sentiment we entirely concur; and it has been the object of the writer, from the moment he commenced his labours, strictly to adhere to truth.

ment) to have been the following persons on board, viz. :—

G. F. Moore, Esq. Captain and Commander.

*Passengers.**

C. G. Armstrong, Esq.	Geo. D'Oyley.
Capt. D'Oyley.	Wm. D'Oyley, and
Mrs. D'Oyley.	A Native Nurse.

List of the Officers, Crew, &c.

F. Clarke, mate.	W. Moore	} Seamen.
W. Mayor, do.	C. Robinson	
G. Pyall, do.	J. Benny	
F. Grant, surgeon.	R. Loain	
L. Constantine, carpenter.	W. Jeffreys	
W. Montgomery, steward.	J. Wright	
W. Penny	W. Gromble	
J. Ching	J. Miller	
B. Quin	W. Williams	
A. Quenne	J. Ireland, the boy saved.	
J. Cain	John Sexton, cabin-boy.	
W. Hill		

* Capt. D'Oyley was an officer in the Bengal Artillery, and had been upwards of twenty years in the service in India.

Mrs. Charlotte D'Oyley, his wife, a near relative to a most respectable banker of London.

The two children, George and William, the former seven, and the latter (who was providentially saved), only two years of age, and attended by a Bengalee female servant.

Mr. Armstrong was an English gentleman, bound for China, and about twenty-five years of age.

The ship's company consisted of twenty-six persons, viz. the commander, (Captain Moore,) Mr. Clarke, chief mate, the second and third mates, two midshipmen, Mr. Grant, the surgeon, the sail-maker, steward, and sailors, together with two cabin-boys, named John Sexton and John Ireland.

[Ireland was saved, and it is through his medium that we have derived many of the following particulars.]

When the *Charles Eaton* left Sydney, she started with, and sailed in the company of a vessel called the *Augustus Cæsar*, for several days, but in consequence of a violent gale, they separated in Torres Straits, on or about the 12th of August. In a previous part of this Narrative, we have made some annotatory remarks relative to this marine passage. It is well known to those who navigate in the eastern part of the globe, as lying between New Guinea and New Holland, and it is considered by all navigators as a route which under the most auspicious circumstances, is beset with intricacy and danger. "This sea is bestrewed," says a modern writer, "with coral-reefs and sand-banks; and it requires every measure which prudence can dictate, or caution suggest, to steer carefully through it. Inter-tropical navigation of this kind demands a constant and careful look-out, and even the utmost vigilance will not always insure safety."

From the accounts which have been given by some of the five seamen who had the good fortune to escape in the boat to Batavia, it appears that about ten o'clock, A. M. on the 15th of August, the wind then blowing hard, the ill-fated vessel ran foul of a rock, called by navigators, "the detached reef," which is situate near the entrance into the straits. The Captain, who was a very experienced seaman, either from an anticipation of danger, or as an act of prudence during the night, ordered the first reef to be taken in the top-sails, so that they might not enter the passage until day-break. Before the morning cleared, however, the wind and current dashed the vessel against the rock with such violence, that the keel and rudder were knocked off, and carried away; and the Captain did not disguise from the passengers and crew his opinion, that the salvation of the vessel was quite hopeless. In this dreadful dilemma, what was to be done? There was little time for consideration; but the preservation of human life he judged to be paramount to every thing; he therefore commanded the boats to be got ready, and stowed with provisions, in order, if possible, to save the passengers and ship's company, by landing them on the Island of Timor, or Timor Laut.

When the *Charles Eaton* first came in contact with the reef, there were four boats: viz., the long boat, two cutters, and a "dandy." In the hour of

extremity, three of the seamen seized one of the cutters, and made off; when two others swam after her in great peril of losing their lives, and got on board. Of the four boats which were on board, this was the only one left fit to put to sea, as all the others were damaged at the time the ship struck. They have since solemnly declared that they lay to as much as possible, but the current was so strong, and the breakers so heavy, that it was impossible for them to near the vessel; and equally so for any one on board to reach them.

Having no alternative, and being anxious for the safety of their own lives, they put off, when all the persons were alive in the fore-castle, excepting one (J. Price,) who was drowned by the swamping of one of the cutters, when being lowered into the sea. Owing to the eddying of the current, the cutter made no great distance during the night, and in the morning, they could plainly see the wreck, but no person on board her; hence they concluded that they had met with a watery grave during the night, in consequence of the violent rolling of the sea. When they departed from the view of the wreck, it was early on Sunday morning, being the 17th day of August; and they were unprovided with a compass or any other nautical instrument by which they might be directed to steer their course.

They were in almost as destitute a state in respect of provisions, as the whole consisted of thirty pounds

of hard bread, one small ham, and a keg containing about four gallons of water, which had been put in the instant the boat was lowered. What a pitiful store to be divided and sub-divided among five hearty men, whose cravings of hunger would naturally rather be augmented than decreased by an exposure to the blasts and night dews on the open sea, for which this latitude is proverbial. These men were driven about for fifteen days on the wide expanse of water, and the steersman had nothing to guide him but the sun by day and the stars by night, and these were frequently obscured by the density of the atmosphere. They, however, steered, as they believed, in a westerly direction, in order, if possible, to reach Timor, a well-known island in the Indian ocean, of which Coussang is the principal town.* At length they descried land, which they all thought was the island they were

* Timor island is situated in the Eastern seas, and is 250 miles long, and 40 miles broad. Lat. $9^{\circ} 30'$; long. $124^{\circ} 30' E$. Gold is found in several of the rivers, both in lumps and grains. Copper also abounds in the Philarem hills. Fort Concordia is the capital of the former, and Delli of the latter; but their respective boundaries are ill-defined, and the native chiefs, at least many of them, disdain all subordination. The natives resemble the South Sea islanders, rather than the Malays. In the interior they are divided into small communities, and governed by chiefs. They cultivate rice, millet, maize, yams, potatoes, and cotton; but maize is the staple article of food, with sugar and a species of sago.

in quest of; but to their mortification, they soon discovered their mistake. They went on shore, however, and provided themselves with some fresh water and cocoa-nuts, which, in their destitute and starving condition, were providential supplies; indeed, some of the party were nearly exhausted from the want of food, and water to quench their thirst.

The five unfortunate men having regaled themselves, then proceeded along the coast in their boat; but they had not gone far before they were assailed by a number of native prows. Exhausted by fatigue and entirely unnerved, resistance was out of the question and resignation their only alternative.

The first thing which the natives did, was to divest them of every article of clothing, and having done this, they upset their boat. They were then hurried up the beach to some distance, when a consultation was held as to the manner in which the captives were to be disposed of. They stood trembling with fear and anxiety, perceiving as they thought, from the features and ferocious looks of the savages, that the majority were for murdering them at once.

It turned out that they were right in their conjecture, for the slaughter was about to commence, when two of the tribe, who seemed to have some influence over the others, interceded for the poor fellows, and their lives were spared. After having

remained here for a short time, the mariners ascertained that they were on the island of Timor Laut, and in the settlement which is known by the name of Oliliet. The two natives who so kindly interposed their authority to save their lives, were called "Lomba" and "Pabok."

At first our countrymen were roughly treated, but after a time, the natives treated them more kindly, and even returned them some of their clothes, and abridged their severe labour; indeed, at last, if they worked at all, it was their own voluntary act. What a contrast between this tribe, and those on the more northern coast of New Holland, where Captain Fraser, his wife, and officers, underwent such appalling deaths, cruelties, and indignities !*

While they remained with these rude, but it would seem, demi-civilized people, they subsisted upon Indian corn, yams, a little rice, and oc-

* In the course of the period they resided in this island, they learned several interesting particulars; and among the rest, that the tribe with whom they located, was in a state of warfare with one of a neighbouring settlement, called Lauren. They were also informed, that in one of them, there was an European who had belonged to an English brig, which was wrecked on that coast several years before, when the whole crew were murdered by the natives, excepting two boys, one of whom had since died a natural death; the other is grown to maturity, and is the person alluded to. This information was given by the natives themselves.

asionally a piece of fish ; but the quantities given were so exceedingly small, that it only proved just sufficient to keep them alive.

It appears from all the accounts which we have heard or read, that from some cause or other, boys and persons of tender age stand a much better chance of being spared than those of riper years. The reason perhaps is, that being feeble, they cannot make resistance, and are more easily initiated into the manners and habits of the natives than adult persons.

The narrators then proceed to state, that after they had lived in comparative indolence for thirteen months, a trading prow arrived at the island from Amboyna, when the five seamen begged permission from the chief to depart with that vessel ; to this request there was at first a direct refusal, but it was so urgently and repeatedly made, that the chief man, whose especial companions they were, hesitated, and relaxed his wonted sternness. At length they hit upon a right expedient. They told the old man that if he would indulge them, and allow them to depart, they would shortly return with an English ship ; and as a reward for the care the natives had taken of them, they would bring him a sufficient quantity of arms and ammunition, whereby he would be enabled to conquer all his enemies. It appears that the tribes in this district differ from the New Hollanders, who have not only aversion to, but stand in the most servile fear of

fire arms. This was a tempting offer, and a conference was held, which resulted in the chiefs giving their consent. After an exchange of friendly salutations they were allowed to go on board the vessel, and in five days they arrived at Amboyna, on the 7th October, 1835.*

* Amboyna is one of the largest and most valuable of the Moluccas or Spice islands, in the Indian ocean, off the S. E. coast of Ceram. Central latitude $3^{\circ} 40' S.$, longitude $128^{\circ} 5' E.$ This island is the seat of the Molucca government, and the centre of its commerce, and is between fifty and sixty miles in length, which is divided into two very unequal parts by two deep bays, being separated only by a narrow isthmus of a mile across. The general aspect of the island is beautiful, and its climate very healthy for a tropical region. It produces a great variety of handsome woods used in cabinet work; but its staple commodity is cloves, of which upwards of 600,000 pounds are annually exported. This island was first discovered by the Portuguese, who built a fort and colonized the country. In 1605 it was taken from them by the Dutch, who, with the exception of a few short intervals, have possessed it ever since. In 1796 it fell into the hands of the English, when a census was made of the inhabitants, and the number was found to be 45,252, of whom 17,813 were Protestants, and the rest either Mohammedans or Chinese. The native men wear large whiskers, and go almost naked. Their weapons are bows, darts, scimitars and targets.

The chief town is called by the same name as the island, and is situate in the peninsula of Leytinor, on a deep bay, which runs upwards of twenty miles into the island. Latitude $3^{\circ} 40' S.$ longitude $126^{\circ} 7' E.$ This town is regularly built, with the streets intersecting each other at regular angles, and extremely

On their arrival they were conveyed before the Resident of Batavia,* when they gave a detail of the particulars, of which we have given an outline,

clean. On the south shore of the bay is fort *Victoria*, mounting six pieces of cannon, and forms the covered-way. From the fort to the town, is an esplanade nearly 250 yards in length, which is terminated by a handsome range of dwelling-houses, with a double row of mulberry trees in front. There are here two well-built churches, one for the European, and the other for the Malay Christians; all the other public buildings are in the fort, excepting the Stadt-house, which fronts the esplanade: this is a neat building of two stories, but the houses are only one story high, and they are so built on account of the frequent earthquakes which are experienced on this island. The meridian now prevailing at Amboyna is from 80 to 82 degrees; and the thermometer, when at its lowest, stands at 72 degrees.

* Batavia is the principal town in the island of Java, and situated on the east coast of the East Indies. Latitude $6^{\circ} 9' 20''$ S., longitude $106^{\circ} 51' 45''$ E. It is considered as the capital of all the Dutch possessions in the East.

The environs of the town contain beautiful shaded walks, with rustic seats and bowers, in which Europeans conceal themselves from the insupportable warmth of the climate. The returns of the population, at different times, are varying and dissatisfactory. In 1780 they were estimated at 160,000; in 1795 at 116,033; and in 1816 only 42,217, (of whom 15,000 were said to be in slavery.) Batavia was discovered by the Dutch, in the year 1619, by John Pieterse Coen. In 1811 it was taken by the British under the gallant Sir Samuel Auchtermuty, but restored to its founders again at the congress held on the 19th August, 1816.

which they all confirmed by oath in his presence, and that of other official persons, as a full and faithful account of what had occurred since the wreck of the *Charles Eaton*, and the document was signed by each of the deponents in the usual form. In the month of June, 1836, the depositions of the five men reached England, and no time was lost in giving information to those gentlemen who were deeply interested in the fate of this important vessel.

This statement, however, although its accuracy was not in the least doubted, or the veracity of the deponents impugned, was instrumental in creating a most intense alarm and apprehension as to the fate of the passengers and the remaining part of the crew; and, as might be expected, the most agonizing suspense possessed the minds of all those who stood in any way related to them. This continued for a considerable time; but at last the rays of hope which sometimes float across the mind, and exhilarate it for a moment, were entirely withheld, and the dreadful certainty of the extent of their loss rushed upon them with tremendous force.

The Straits of Torres, which have so frequently been alluded to, seem really as if they were destined to be the terror of navigators. This arises from the extreme difficulty of steering through that perilous passage, the irregular courses of the tides, the sudden manner in which storms

and hurricanes arise, and the numercus shoals which are scattered in this vast expanse of water seem to bid defiance to nautical skill, and the steadiest caution. To detail the various wrecks which have happened there, that have come to our knowledge, would fill a large folio, and many a vessel has, doubtless, foundered, and been swallowed up in that insatiate gulf, of the particulars of which the world will ever remain ignorant. It is not unlikely that the sanguinary character of the natives, who massacre the survivors who fall into their hands, is the most plausible reason which can be assigned why the fates of many other hopeless vessels are never made known. It was only in the year 1829, that the good ship *Governor Ready* having passed Murray's Island, and the Great Barrier reef, the commander considered that he had surmounted all the principal dangers he had to anticipate. In this confidence the vessel pursued a serpentine course with great rapidity, and guided only by the colour of the water, she was so steered as to pass many sand-banks and reefs in safety. But the ways and thoughts of Him "*who carries the wind in his fists, and the waters in the hollow of his hand,*" are different to those of mankind. It often happens on land, as well as on the ocean, that when man considers that his anxieties and struggles are ended, and he is ready to say, "*Soul, take thy rest,*" some unexpected and overwhelming trouble arouses him

from his self-security, and “*great fear cometh upon him, as upon a woman in her travail.*” Thus it was with the brave commander of the *Governor Ready*; for without a moment’s warning of the impending danger, the vessel struck upon one of the small detached coral reefs which abound in this passage, and such was the violence of the concussion, that the water instantly made its way into the ship’s bottom. Thus suddenly and almost at mid-day, (it being one o’clock P. M.) all the hopes of the commander, passengers, and crew were annihilated by one fell stroke. No time was to be lost—the water rushed through the dissevered planks like a flood, and with much difficulty the boats were lowered in time for all the passengers to escape before the hopeless vessel was engulfed in the ocean. After beating out at sea for several days in the open boats, with scarcely any provisions, their anxieties were allayed by providentially arriving at Timor Island.

We have already stated, that the *Charles Eaton* sailed from Port Jackson in company with the *Augustus Cæsar*, from which she was separated a short time before the catastrophe occurred. Several months after the wreck of the former vessel, an account reached England from the captain of the latter; but it contained no intelligence of a satisfactory nature, as to the fate of the crew, only serving to confirm the truth of the melancholy accounts which had recently preceded it. The

account alluded to was posted at Lloyd's as follows :—

“ On the 31st of August, 1834, the second mate and boat's crew of the *Augustus Cæsar* saw and picked up a wreck on the S. E. side of Double Island, sufficient to convince them that the ship CHARLES EATON was a total wreck at some distance to south-eastward from thence; and from the weather they had on the 22nd, they much feared for the safety of the crew and passengers.”

One of the accounts received prior to this date, was from Messrs. Borradaile and Co. of the Cape of Good Hope, which was as follows :—

“ Captain Cockburn, of the ship *Jane and Henry*, sailed with the CHARLES EATON four days from Sydney, and parted company in a gale of wind; afterwards fell in with the *Augustus Cæsar*, which ship sent a boat on shore on Booby Island. The officers reported that they had seen a vessel bottom upwards, and several casks marked CHARLES EATON, and also a cuddy door. The *Jane and Henry* left Batavia on the 17th of October, 1834, and up to that time, the CHARLES EATON had not been heard of.

These accounts increased the apprehensions of relatives and friends, rather than assuaged the sorrow and painful anxiety which had long filled their minds; and incertitude appeared to be more distressing than would have been a knowledge of the full extent of their loss.

How could it be otherwise? It was natural that alternate hopes and fears should arise in the human breast; indeed they prevailed to the greatest possible extent; and the relatives of the shipwrecked passengers, in the poignancy of their sorrow, cast off the grades of distinction which marked their respective stations in life, and they entered into a kind of social compact,—a society of mourners, weeping for their kindred, “*because they were not;*” and each was bound in a pledge to the other, to render an account of any intelligence which might reach them to the dejected fraternity, whether the tidings were good or bad.

It appears from published documents, that Capt. D'Oyley had been a great number of years on military duty in India, and was in the frequent habit of corresponding with his friends in England, and particularly with Mr. Bayley, his brother-in-law, who resides at Stockton-on-Tees, who had become a kind of foster-parent to the Captain's two eldest sons, to whom he communicated from time to time, the progress which each was making in scholastic knowledge. As a proof of the feelings which had been generated in consequence of Mr. Bayley's disinterested attention to the children, we take the liberty of inserting the following letters, which were the last ever written by the mother of these children. They are dated from Sydney, July 20th, 1834. This amiable lady

almost complains of the long silence of her friends in England.*

The following are extracts from the letters alluded to; and we doubt not, but they will be perused with a melancholy pleasure. A reflection arises,—What have the two youths, to whom they have especial reference, lost by the death of *such* a mother, who doubtless breathed the spirit of her husband, who unhappily shared the same fate as herself! It may be said of them, as of Saul and Jonathan of old, “*They were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their deaths they were not divided,*” 2 Sam. i. 23.

“*Sydney, July 20th, 1834.*”

“I cannot refrain, my dear brother, from writing a few lines to you, that I may convince you that the hearing of, or from you, forms one of our greatest pleasures; and so assured am I that you have a heart formed in nature’s finest mould, that when you are certain that the communicating with us does give us such true and sincere delight, such long silence will never occur again. Surely I am not asking *too* much, when I request to know of your welfare, and that of our interesting family *twice in the year*. The time may yet arrive, when I shall show by actions, not words, that *your* children are most interesting

* It has been subsequently ascertained, that this amiable and unfortunate lady, as well as her gallant husband, had written letters almost innumerable, which never arrived for delivery in England. The reason for this appears to be, their having sailed to the Mauritius and New South Wales after they left India, with a view to the Captain’s convalescence.

objects of our love. Can we ever forget the offspring of him who has shown kindness and affection to our absent boys? Could we ever forget that they have found a home where we could have wished, and as good as any we could most ardently have desired? May God reward you and yours for all your kindness to them!

“To show how greatly my husband is liked by the heads in his department, I will tell you, that since our departure from India, he has been promoted a step, at a time when we had no reason to expect it. This is highly gratifying to his feelings, as it openly shows the great estimation in which he is held. May he be blessed with life and health, to enable him to remain a few years in India, to prove that the confidence that is placed in him is just, and to enable us to realise a competence to retire with. Hoping that you and your family are well, and our *darlings* (the two boys) still hold your entire affection,

“I remain, with our united love,

“Your attached sister,

“CHARLOTTE D'OYLEY.”

To W. Bayley, Esq. Stockton, Durham.

The following is a *postscript* to the above:—

“When we went in pursuit of health, on my beloved D'Oyley's account, do not suppose that we would not have bent our steps to England, to your abode, and our children: how did inclination tempt us to do this! But *Providence* said NO!”

The subsequent affecting epistle is the last which she wrote to her sons, above alluded to, who were domiciled with their uncle at Stockton.

“MY DEAR CHILDREN,

“Your father and myself are experiencing the deepest anxiety, in consequence of the length of time which has elapsed since your last communications were received. Sometimes the

painful idea haunts me, that time and absence have effaced us from your little minds, and that we are as entirely forgotten as though we had a long time been dead. This thought is so sadly painful, that I try to drive it away, by calling to mind your dear affectionate ways, when you were both but infants. I am loth to attribute your silence to mere idleness, for I hope that your minds are so properly trained, that a *wish* formed by your parents will be considered in the light of a *command*, and that the performing of this command will be one of your greatest pleasures. To honour your father and mother, my children, is the command of God, the fulfilling of which carries a blessing along with it, and the neglect of it a curse. You cannot know how *deeply* we both feel our absence from you. A firm conviction that we were doing our duty, by sending you to England, enabled us to put this separation into execution, and that for the benefit of your education: the same conviction enables us to bear up under it, for often, my boys, do tears of anguish flow down our cheeks, because my darlings are far away; however, could we more frequently hear of your health and happiness, our minds would be more reconciled and easy. I hope I have now said enough to induce you to write regularly.

“ We quitted Hobart Town about a fortnight since, and after a week's trip by sea, we arrived in this country (Sydney), possessing a lovely climate, of which, at present, comparatively little is known. What does not energy of mind accomplish? How does it overcome every obstacle! But a few years back, this shore was unknown to Europeans, and was inhabited by a race of blacks, who are now on the decrease, while the former are increasing wonderfully, and filling the country. Once, this very spot was unacquainted with noise; now, the bustle of a commercial city reigns throughout. Learn all that is in your power; for by wisdom and understanding, all things can be accomplished.

“ We leave Sydney for Sourabaya next week, where we hope to meet a ship direct to Calcutta; *but we may visit many ports*, before we arrive at our dear Calcutta; however, I am quite tired of this

wandering life, and long to get settled. Your beloved father's health is, through *the bounty of a merciful God*, quite restored; therefore, in this respect, I am quite happy; he is looking rosy and robust; but my heart trembles at returning, on his account to the *land of the sun*, and should he suffer by it, nothing should induce me to remain any longer there; for life with him is bliss; *without him* would be wretchedness extreme.

“Your brother George has become a fine tall healthy boy, very mild and amiable, and getting on in his studies. Little Willy (the one saved from the general devastation) is in the enjoyment of health, but too young to begin his lessons. And now may God for ever bless my children; keep his commandments, and be his servants on earth, so that at death you may enter into his eternal rest.

“I am ever your attached friend and mother,

“CHARLOTTE D'OYLEY.

“Oh what would I give—what would I not give, to kiss my absent lads! God for ever bless you! such is my constant prayer.”

We are satisfied that we shall incur no censure from any party, in consequence of the insertion of these affectionate letters, which so strongly bear the impress of parental affection. Alas, the writer of them, and her husband, were never destined to behold their favourite boys again!

“Their children dear no more shall they behold,
Nor friends, nor sacred home.”

It was known to the family and friends of Captain D'Oyley, that he and his family had left the east, owing to his declining state of health, and that it was his purpose to return thither again

as soon as his recovery was accomplished, in order not only to resume his military duties, but in the expectation of occupying a superior station to which he had been officially appointed.

When rumours were afloat in England, that a vessel called the CHARLES EATON was wrecked, the friends of that gallant but ill-fated officer lost no time in making every possible inquiry; and among other places, at the Admiralty, in order to find out if possible, whether Government had received any official account, relative to the vessel in question.

The agitated state of Mr. Bayley's feelings may in some degree be imagined, by reading the following extracts from his letter:—

“From the information I have received,” says he, “there is every reason to believe that the whole of the crew and passengers (of the CHARLES EATON) had landed on Booby Island, or Double Island, in Torres Straits; but that many of them, if not all, had been murdered, or carried into captivity by the savages; and as it is not unusual for the inhabitants of these islands to preserve the females for worse purposes than death itself, *I do implore* the interference of his Majesty's government to send out a frigate to rescue the poor surviving sufferers, (if there should be any) from what they are now in that case subject. I shall be obliged by your informing me if you can be at all instrumental in the object of my application; and if not, what course you can recommend me to take, in order to procure the aid of government in this important matter,—important to all who possess *any degree of sympathy*, but to *me in particular.*”

The letter, of which the above is a portion, was

directed to Mr. Stephen of the Admiralty, and by that gentleman forwarded to the Lord Mayor of London, (at that time, Mr. Ald. Copeland, M.P.) After perusing it, his Lordship immediately sent for the owner of the *Augustus Cæsar*, and in consequence, the captain of that vessel was directed to wait upon his lordship at the Mansion House.

Upon his arrival, Captain Wiseman gave the chief magistrate a detailed account of all the information which he possessed upon the subject. The following is an abridgment of the detail, but embraces every principal fact connected with the painful inquiry.

The ship CHARLES EATON, and schooner *Jane and Henry*, sailed from Sydney, New South Wales, in company, on or about the 30th July, 1834. The *Augustus Cæsar* sailed from thence on the 18th of August, in the same year, and fell in with the *Jane and Henry* outside of the Barrier Reefs. On passing through Torres Straits in company, we anchored under the lee of Double Island on the 1st of September, and sent a boat on shore with the second mate and crew. They remained on the island about three hours, and walked round it, when they found a quantity of drift wreck from a ship, but could not see the hull, crew, or passengers. They saw a fire and one naked black, who ran away at their approach. On the boat's return to the ship, they brought with them a stern window, several brass locks, and a key with the

ship's name on it. From the quantity of wreck seen, it became evident that the ship CHARLES EATON had been shipwrecked on some island or reef directly to windward, and at no great distance, probably York or Albany Island. As a number of fires were seen on Wednesday Island during the night, it was not considered safe to venture a landing on it. We went on shore at Booby's Island, and found that they had not been there. On inquiry since my arrival in London, I am informed, that a part of the crew have since reached Batavia, and have given information that several of the passengers and crew are alive, and detained on the island where the ship was wrecked.

As Torres Straits is now frequented by a number of valuable British ships, on their way from Australia to India, and the Isle of France, a correct survey of the several channels, and *in particular, safe places of anchorage, is much wanted*; and it is suggested by some that a few beacons might be erected on the reefs. The persons referred to by Captain Wiseman as having landed at Batavia, were the five seamen, whose deposition made on their landing at that place, has been already noticed. With respect to the suggestion on the subject of beacons, it may not be improper to remark, that Sir Geo. Grey, in a communication to Mr. Bayley, (the brother of Mrs. D'Oyley) stated that the suggestion of Capt. Wiseman, and others, upon this subject, "had been taken into

serious consideration by His Majesty's government." The communication does honour to all parties; but it is right to premise, that when it was penned, government had received further particulars respecting the *Charles Eaton*, than have been at present alluded to.

The letter is dated from the Admiralty, and addressed to W. Bayley, Esq., Stockton on Tees.

"SIR,—I am directed by Lord Glenelg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, in which you inquire whether it is the intention of his lordship to submit to parliament any plan to avoid the re-occurrence of similar calamities to those which the passengers and crew of the "CHARLES EATON" experienced on their being wrecked in the *Torres Straits*. I am directed to acquaint you, in answer, that while his lordship deeply sympathizes with your feelings under the distressing circumstances to which you advert, he is not aware that it would be in the power of parliament to provide any effectual remedy against the calamities to which the crew and passengers of a shipwrecked vessel may be exposed from the uncivilized inhabitants of the country, on the shores of which they may be unfortunately cast. The most effectual security which in his lordship's opinion can be taken for the safety of our countrymen in these seas, *is a complete survey of the straits, and of the adjoining coast of New Holland*; and he is happy to be able to inform you, *that one of H. M. ships is about to be despatched to that quarter for this object.*"

In this case, as in many others, it appears that good is likely to result from evil, and that the misfortunes of a few may operate for the benefit and advantage of the many. Thus the loss of the "CHARLES EATON" may, by the means now in

progress, be productive of the future safety of many richly freighted vessels, and the still more valuable lives of the crews and passengers.

The delay which intervened before Mr. Bayley could obtain a full, true, and particular account, only gave an impetus to his assiduity: hence that gentleman, it would seem, continued to address the Admiralty at regular intervals, soliciting the earliest information that might reach the government through any channel. It is proper to remark, that to these inquiries, Lord Glenelg, Sir G. Grey, Sir John Barrow, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Stephen were always ready to furnish such replies as they were enabled; at the same time showing every desire to investigate the subject, and using every effort to procure intelligence. They all showed a marked sympathy with the feelings of private individuals, not always a very conspicuous trait in the character of statesmen, and persons holding high official situations.

No greater proof need be given of the interest which was entertained on the subject by the Lords of the Admiralty than that of their having forwarded despatches, as early as possible, to Sir Richard Bourke, governor of New South Wales, commanding him to adopt such measures as to him might seem advisable, in order to ascertain the fate of the shipwrecked persons, and to rescue them from their perilous situation.

The instructions from government here alluded to were sent out by the ship *Recovery*, which Lord Glenelg was pleased personally to notify to Mr. Bayley. It appears, moreover, that similar instructions were forwarded to Rear-Admiral Capel, commander in chief in the East Indian station, with orders to the ships of war on that station to make every exertion in their power for the discovery and relief of the captives, were they or any of them yet alive. It has since been ascertained, that the gallant Rear-Admiral ordered one of his squadron to proceed to Torres Straits, in search of the unfortunate crew and passengers of the "CHARLES EATON." It is due to state that every effort was made, and method taken, which a paternal government could devise, for accomplishing an object that involved so many considerations of sympathy and humanity.

We have hitherto principally directed our attention to the unfortunate D'Oyley family, but it is proper to remark, that as there were other persons on board the "CHARLES EATON," as passengers, besides them, of course other individuals in this country to whom they were connected by consanguinity or otherwise, felt a very deep interest in their fate. Among these there was an Irish gentleman, who had been intimately acquainted with Captain Moore, and Mr. Armstrong. This person repeatedly wrote to Mr. Bayley, whose

name has often been mentioned, expressing a most urgent anxiety to be acquainted with any particulars which might arrive by the first post.

Among others who made similar applications, imploring information, was a dignified clergyman, whose son was on board the vessel. As fine specimens of *parental sensibility*, it may not be amiss to give a few extracts from these letters.

“ My son (says the rev. divine) was on board the ‘ CHARLES EATON,’ which I am informed by the newspapers, has met with a disastrous fate; but the nature of that fate I cannot ascertain. In this dreadful state of hope and fear, have I and my family been kept; for, alas! I cannot flatter myself, that any rational beam of hope can be indulged. If they are yet alive, the state of slavery and misery in which they are left, is too appalling for imagination to reflect upon. Perhaps the same wave that engulfed Captain D’Oyley, has engulfed my son, and the same moment has closed the lives and sufferings of both. Pray communicate what you know, and do an act of kindness to an aged and unhappy father, who can too truly say, that since he heard of the melancholy fate of his son, he has never known comfort by day or ease by night. I throw myself on your kindness and humanity to give me some relief by a gracious communication.”

The heart-broken parent was replied to in the language of sympathy by Mr. Bayley, to whom the above was addressed, and at the same time a transcript of the depositions taken before the resident at Batavia, was sent; which at that period was all the information he was able to communicate.

With the usual proneness of the human mind to cherish hope to the last, the poor afflicted father writes in reply as follows :—

“ I have read the depositions with unwearied attention, and the result which bursts upon my agonized heart is, if they be safe, *why may not others be so?* Every moment, therefore, until the real fact is known, brings with it alternate hope and fear, which the transition of a few months must make known to us. I have received a letter on this painful subject, in which the writer considers, that from the *friendly nature and dispositions of the natives of the coast* on which the ship was wrecked, evinced by the circumstance of the five seamen being alive there, it is just as possible that there may be more of the crew among them.”

The person who wrote this letter to the clergyman, was the friend to Captain Moore, and the executor of his will ; and he says, that from the known intelligence and enterprise of the captain and the mate, every thing was to be expected.

There is something in this detail of events which naturally, in this state of incertitude, presented a glimmering of hope amidst the dark and gloomy shades that surrounded the relatives and friends of these hapless people.

After the lapse of a number of weeks, the following communication appeared in the Canton Register of February 16th, 1836.

“ SIR,—I beg to inform you, that the ship *Mangles*, under my command, arrived under Murray’s Island in Torres Straits, on the evening of the 18th of September last. On the morning of the 19th several canoes came off for the purpose of trade,

in one of which was a white person, apparently an European, quite naked, like the savages. The greater part of the natives came on the starboard quarter, the quarter-boats being lowered half down for the purpose of trade. I remained for some time standing on the starboard quarter, in order to watch their movements, till several had left to go on shore, and then went on the other side to inquire respecting the person whom I had seen; he had then dropped a little astern, and from inquiry I found that he was an Englishman, wrecked about ten months ago, in the Torres Straits, in a ship called the 'CHARLES EATON;' he wished very much to come on board, but the natives would not allow him. On hearing this report, I manned and armed my cutter, and sent the second officer, the boatswain, and six men to take him at any price, being myself on the poop with armed men to protect them in case of any objection being made to the surrender; they hooked the canoe with the boat-hook, and told him (the European) they were come for him. His reply to the crew was, 'Take that man, (pointing to a savage,) *he* will go with you.' 'No,' said the second officer, 'I am come for you, and you I will have.' The man immediately threw down the paddle he had in his hand, and dashed under the midships out of sight.

"I then ordered my lieutenant to return, and said, if he prefers to live with the savages, let him remain. The boat then returned, and was hoisted up. I then made some further inquiries about him, when the fourth officer told me he should consider there were eight or more on there detained by the natives. He at that time was close in-shore again, but what could have been his motive for not coming into my boat, I am at a loss to conceive, as he might have jumped into her without any hinderance on the part of the natives. However, not feeling myself quite satisfied, I again manned and armed my cutter, and went myself in her close to the beach with my spy-glass, and remained there more than two hours. The natives were very anxious for me to land; but seeing so many on the beach, and a great many more behind the bamboo work, and also a

large canoe ready for launching, I did not think it prudent to land. They brought a little European boy down close to the beach, but would not allow me to touch him. I also saw a boat building by European hands, I am certain, but I could not see a white man. After I returned on board, I watched the remainder of the day, but could not discover any. I also remained all that night at anchor, thinking it might be possible for some of them to make their escape. The next morning, at 9 o'clock A. M., I weighed, and came away through the straits, and anchored again under Booby Island on the morning of the 21st. That there were Europeans in Murray's Island I know, and that they are detained by force too, I can have no doubt, or why did they not come off to me? The one that was alongside my ship I could never see again. I thought it right to make this known to you, to act on the information as you may think proper. I shall also write to London by the first opportunity.

(Signed) "W. CARR, commander of the ship *MANGLES*,
off the north side of Lombeck, August 9th,
1835."

The editor of the Canton Register made the following remarks upon the foregoing letter :

"The news of the wreck of the "*CHARLES EATON*," in Torres Straits, reached China many months ago; as likewise a rumour that many of the crew were detained by the natives. The account which Captain Carr has handed to us, has set the question at rest; and we must conclude that the commander-in-chief in the East India Station has before now adopted measures to recover those unfortunate persons from captivity. Captain Carr deserves every praise for his perseverance in endeavouring to induce the men he saw to join the *Mangles*, but it is a question whether it would have been justifiable to have used force on the occasion. *Ransom, in that case, we think, would be the most just and wise mode of proceeding; by which*

the natives would be encouraged to exert themselves hereafter in saving the lives of the shipwrecked sailors and others, and induce a protecting care towards us in the hopes of a proper reward."

The next intelligence which was received in England was from Sir Charles D'Oyley, Bart., a relation of Captain D'Oyley, dated Calcutta, May 6th; and this also served to keep alive and fan the flame of hope, which had not as yet been extinguished in the bosoms of the anxious relatives. It was thought by some of them, and their friends cherished the hope, that as the actual destiny of the party had remained a secret, there was a possibility of their having survived the wreck.

The Baronet writes as follows :

" MY DEAR SIR,—I ought to have acknowledged the receipt of your letter sooner on the melancholy subject of the wreck of the *Charles Eaton*, but I felt anxious to postpone it, in the hope that I might be enabled to write with more certainty than I could do then, or indeed even do now; I will not however, longer delay replying to it; for keeping you in ignorance of the measures we pursued will rather add to your suspense as to the fate of our very unfortunate relatives. Currie and myself have successfully solicited the government to send one of the Honourable Company's armed cruisers to the islands in the vicinity of the Torres Straits, where it is possible the crew and passengers may have escaped. He left Bombay about six weeks ago; while the Dutch government at Batavia have consented to send some of their small craft, backed by a ship of war, to ascertain whether the islands contain any of the ill-fated crew.

Sir Charles then proceeds to give the evidence

given by Captain Carr, as already narrated, and alludes to the depositions taken at Batavia.

He then proceeds :

“ The whole of this story is incredible : 1st. because the hull of the ‘ CHARLES EATON ’ was seen some months after her wreck by a Danish ship, whose commander said the hull was in an upright position, her prow stove in, and her top-gallant masts across, but so situated that the crew might have remained on board of her till her provisions failed : and, 2ndly, that some of her crew were discovered on Murray’s Island, and a boy, answering in age either to George or William D’Oyley. We have obtained permission from the Dutch government to forward these sailors to Calcutta, and hope, on their arrival, to obtain some further information on the subject ; and it is likely that at the same time we may ascertain the result of the expeditions which have been sent by both governments to the islands. The subordinate Dutch authorities at Timor have been instructed to make every possible inquiry, and if necessary, to negotiate the release of the prisoners. These are, in brief, the measures which have been taken to ascertain the fate of the crew, &c., of the ‘ CHARLES EATON,’ and may God grant us success in learning what has become of our poor relatives. I will give you the earliest information of what may be learned.

“ Believe me, my dear Sir, yours, &c.

“ C. D’OYLEY.

“ To W. Bayley, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

“ P. S. Captain Carr, of the ship *Mangles*, will be here tomorrow, and I keep open this letter, to add whatever of interest he may mention. *May 11th.*—Capt. Carr has added no further intelligence to that which he published in the Canton paper, except that while looking through his glass for more Europeans, he observed a matted screen, not quite reaching to the ground, and saw among the native feet passing to and fro,

some *white* feet, and what appeared to him part of a *lady's petticoat*. The boy was sent from this screen to the beach, within six yards of his boat. The child is a very fine one, apparently about three years of age, with a curly head of hair. He beckoned him (Capt. C.) and tittered some words, which he did not understand. He says he could not remain any longer, as several canoes were endeavouring to get to seaward of him, and he was fearful of being cut off. He, however, threw his hat on shore, in which he wrote his name, the name of his ship, and a promise that he would make public what he had seen.

“C. D. Sept. 19, 1835.”

Although Murray's Island has so frequently been mentioned both in this narrative, and also in the *History of the Shipwreck of the STIRLING CASTLE*, as it is so intimately connected with the melancholy fates of these vessels, it will not be deemed irrelevant, we hope, to insert a few particulars respecting it, by one who has visited it more than once; as they will furnish our readers with some idea of the character of its inhabitants.

“The inhabitants of Murray's Island are totally distinct from any of the aborigines of New Holland, to whom in every respect they are superior; but they have the character of being very treacherous, daring, and deceitful. Horsburg, in his *Directory*, cautions voyagers to be on their guard in their intercourse with the natives of the numerous islands of Torres Straits, particularly with those of Murray's Island. Like all other savages, they are prone to thieving, but not otherwise evil-disposed. When they observe a vessel approaching their

coast, an immense number of natives are seen running along the shore, some of them wading out to a considerable distance, and shouting, *Wareka wareka!* which signifies *welcome*, and *Maborese!* which means, *come to us*, with great vociferation, holding out bows and arrows, clubs, waddies, tortoise-shell, cocoa nuts, plantains, &c. &c., calling out at the same time, *Torre, torre*, meaning iron. If the ship should stop, an active barter soon commences. At first, the natives will not suffer their commodities to go out of their hands, till they have possession of what they consider an equivalent; but if the articles be given them to inspect, they soon without hesitation lay aside their distrust. This action on their part shows that they must have been *cheated in their former dealings with Europeans*. Old knives and old iron hoops straightened, are exchanged to great advantage. When they see muskets or other deadly instruments, they try to propitiate them by using the word *Putu, putu*, in a conciliatory tone, as much as to say, "Don't be afraid," at the same time putting green leaves between the flints and the pans. Their houses differ from the huts which are found on some of the other islands; they are built of the bamboo cane, thatched, and are generally exceedingly neat and clean. Several of the men seem to labour under *elephantiasis*, and others are afflicted with a still more loathsome disease. The mode of salutation is by touching noses with

their guests. Some of the largest huts are filled with human skulls, which are placed in a particular arrangement. Their canoes have two masts, placed opposite to each other, and a sail extended between them; but when going with a side wind, the lee mast is brought aft by a backstay, and the sails then stand obliquely. No boats can be better manœuvred than these are by the naked savages. Some of them are well-made men, considerably above the middle size and stature, in whose fine, open, but resolute countenances, one cannot perceive the least indication of treachery.

“They are very expert in archery; indeed the most skilful European archers fall very far short of these athletic savages, whose amazing feats could not have been surpassed by English archers in olden times. Their astonishing adroitness can only be attributed to their being accustomed to this exercise from their early youth. Even the boys, when very young, amuse themselves by shooting with bows and arrows suitable to their strength. Captain Flinders, in describing the attack made by the savages on two English vessels, says, the depth to which their arrows penetrated into the decks and sides of the ship was truly astonishing. The bows are made of split bamboo, and so strong, that no man in the ship could bend one of them. The string is a broad slip of cane, fixed to the one end of the bow, and fitted with a noose to go over the other end when strung. The arrow is a piece

of cane, about four feet long, into which is inserted a pointed piece of hard, heavy *cusmarina* wood, and sometimes it is barbed. Their clubs are also made of the *cusmarina*, and are very powerful weapons; the hand part is indented, and has a small knob, by which the firmness of the grasp is much assisted. These people, in short, are very dexterous sailors, and formidable warriors. They are of a dark chocolate colour, and possess very intelligent countenances; their features resemble those of Europeans more than those of savages in general do. The inhabitants of Murray's Island are supposed to amount to about 700; but although the soil appears to be very fertile, and the shores abound in fish and turtle, as it is not more than two miles in length, by one in breadth, it may be fairly presumed that it cannot support so large a population.

“It has been considered, on many accounts, a very eligible spot to occupy; but it is doubtful, from the warlike appearance of the natives, whether a sufficient number of soldiers could be spared from head-quarters, to keep possession of it as a British settlement. Some of our vessels have acted towards the natives with great prudence and good-humour, and endeavoured to cultivate their friendship, *for the advantage of those who might hereafter through shipwreck be at their mercy*; and such conduct has been attended with good results, as several shipwrecked seamen have since

testified that they were treated by them with kindness, humanity, and even hospitality."—*Vide the Appendix to Dr. Wilson's Narrative of a Voyage round the World.**

Resuming our narrative.—Captain Carr, of the ship *Mangles*, having arrived in London, an examination was taken at the Mansion-house, on this melancholy subject, in Nov. 1836, before the Lord Mayor, in the presence of Mr. Bayley, Mr. Drew, and other gentlemen and persons interested in the fate of the passengers. The following additional particulars were elicited. The gallant captain stated to his lordship that, when at Murray's Island, he understood that there were eight or ten Europeans in the place; that he walked about the poop of the vessel for two hours before he could determine what to do or how to act; at length he resolved to man and arm his cutter, and send her toward the shore; that they brought a European boy down, about three years old, evidently as a decoy, to induce him to land; that he offered some mocoës (axes) for him, which were refused, notwithstanding the great predilection the natives have for that tool, a circumstance which appears to warrant a conjecture that they placed great estimation on the value of the child, or perhaps

* Dr. Rutherford visited this island in 1833, and has since furnished the *United Service Journal* with a very interesting account of these people.

its innocence and beauty might have caused it to find favour even in the breasts of savages. He said that he had seen, as he thought, a person in petticoats on shore, but no favourable inference could be drawn from that, as sometimes the commanders of different vessels which traded there made presents of female apparel. On a previous voyage, he had sent one of the female natives ashore in Mrs. Carr's clothes, which caused great merriment to her companions, and every body else; that the natives were, doubtless, addicted to cannibalism, as he had been credibly informed that they feasted on the bodies of such as they slew in battle. He also stated that the fear of fire arms was predominant in the minds of these islanders, as well as those in the more northern regions, as described by Mrs. Fraser and Mr. Baxter, so much so, that they had an instinctive dread of their discharge, and when they heard the report of one, they fell on their faces to the earth. He said that he refrained from hostile measures, because had he killed one of the savages, they would, probably, in the spirit of revenge, have murdered every European within their power. He said that he was quite embarrassed from the novelty of the circumstances under which he was placed; but although he could not negotiate in so regular a way as might have been desirable, yet he acted from a thorough conviction that the steps he took were the most proper ones in which he could tread.

The Lord Mayor and gentlemen present, who were more than all others interested in the investigation, gave the captain credit for what he had done, and it was admitted on all hands that the forbearance which he manifested was more calculated to save the lives of the unhappy persons who might be on the island, than force and coercion. A statement was handed in by one of the gentlemen, which he had received from a seaman, named Anderson, who formed one of the crew of the *Mangles*, which rather contradicted Captain Carr's account; but the latter said the document was interlarded throughout with falsehood. The parties interested were of opinion that, supposing Captain Carr did not offer ransoms, he had acted injudiciously. It was considered, however, that the word of the gallant captain, who had certainly done a great deal, and perhaps paved the way for the ultimate emancipation of the party, ought to have more weight than a written statement of an absent person, who might be instigated by pique or otherwise to give a contradictory account, in order to destroy the credence due to his late commander.

A letter, however, was afterwards received, setting forth, that three sailors went voluntarily to one of the gentlemen before named, (we believe Mr. Bayley,) and the account they gave of the matter was, that the chief mate, who is since dead, pointed out to Captain Carr the propriety of de-

taining the black chief, which was entirely without avail; and that one of the sailors, in the act of lowering the jolly-boat for the white man to step into, was abused and threatened with punishment for so doing. One of these three sailors (part of the crew of the *Mangles*) said the white man stated that he was a native of Dublin, that his name was Price, and that a lady and child had been saved from the wreck, with seven of the seamen. Another of the trio said that the white man told him that seven of the sailors were saved as well as himself; the accounts of these men were in this and other respects so conflicting, that the party did not know what to believe.

It is much to be feared that the testimony of these sailors was manufactured for the sake of reward from the relatives of the passengers, or otherwise for the purpose of injuring Captain Carr's character, since subsequent information has fully proved the incorrectness of what they averred; but such was naturally the anxiety of the relatives to obtain information of their friends through every possible channel, that, as in all similar cases, they eagerly listened to every account brought them; and whatever afforded a gleam of hope respecting their destiny was received with proportionate avidity. It would be impossible for those who have never had kindred similarly situated, to imagine, much less can we describe, the state of distress into which the relatives of the crew and

passengers of the CHARLES EATON were plunged, during the long period which intervened between the wreck of the vessel and the ultimate knowledge of their fate. About the period we are alluding to, the venerable divine intimated to Mr. Bayley (the brother of Mrs. D'Oyley) that the inhabitants of the town in which he resided had kindly offered to come forward and offer a reward to any one who should discover and release the unfortunate party, but that he had gratefully declined the offer, as he considered that it was too late for any ransom to be available; the sum offered was a hundred guineas. The bereaved and venerable gentleman, in the true spirit of a father added, "There are no terms which I would not offer, within the limits of my power to discharge, in order to effect the restoration of my unfortunate and beloved son to his distracted family and friends. Amidst the various and tumultuous feelings which frequently agitate my breast, and float across my imagination, I often ask myself which I should be most able to bear—the rapturous information that "*My son was dead, and is alive again—he was lost, and is found,*" or the sad certainty that death had long ago terminated his life and his sufferings? Whatever the issue may be, and something decisive must soon be known, may gracious Heaven give me fortitude in that trying hour to bear up under either alternative. Your unexpected kindness in the

mean time, Sir, I cannot but feel as a gracious interposition of Providence to soften and alleviate the affliction of your friend and fellow-sufferer.”*

* Before we conclude, we shall present our readers with a representation of the skulls of the crew of the *Charles Eaton*, as given in the *Missionary Magazine*, the conductors of which have kindly permitted us to take a *fac-simile*.

In reference to this catastrophe, the Rev. Editor of that respectable periodical remarks as follows:—

“How often have the declarations of inspired truth, which describe the ways and actions of heathen men, been appallingly realized in the present day, and before the eyes of British travellers! How often, too, have the latter borne in their own persons fearful illustrations of the prophetic announcements, ‘*The dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty; their feet are swift to shed blood!*’ The number of our countrymen who have fallen victims to barbarous cruelty, in countries where Christianity is known neither in its direct influences, nor in its reflected light, is great. Instances of pagan ferocity and relentlessness are fresh in our recollection; but of late occurrences exemplifying the veracity of scriptural statements, none bears so strikingly painful and revolting a character, as that recorded on the present occasion. It is with unfeigned reluctance that we introduce into our pages a transaction so harrowing to humane and Christian feeling; but we consider it a solemn duty to pass over no event which may enforce upon the disciples of Christ the necessity of sending forth his divine gospel to *every kindred, and tongue, and nation, and people*. Only by the diffusion of its heavenly principles, and its constraining motives to their exercise, can such horrors as that now under notice, be brought to a perpetual end.”

CHAPTER XVIII.

“The last distressing scene,
That ends this strange, eventful history.”

SHAKESPEARE.

“*For I am sent to thee with heavy tidings.*”

1 KINGS xiv. 6.

“Thrice happy is that man who, judging aright of the awful dispensations of an all-wise Providence, can exclaim, ‘*I will not be afraid of evil tidings; my heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.*’”

How frequently it happens, in the ordinary scenes of life, that although we anticipate what we deem a calamity, and feel a moral certainty of its soon overtaking us, yet when it makes its appearance, we startle for the moment, and are as much surprised, as though we had no forewarning or apprehension of its approach! How often has this remark been exemplified when death has entered into our families, or among our connexions! Disease has caused the frame of those we loved to be attenuated; the rose has departed from the cheek, and has been

succeeded by the lily ; again the face has been flushed with the “ carnation of consumption,” the certain harbinger of death ; we have felt convinced that the hour of separation drew nigh ; yet we have hoped against hope, until at last the king of terrors has performed his errand, and then the awful reality has rushed upon our minds, that we had lost a relative or a friend for ever !

It was doubtless so with the surviving persons to whom this narrative has reference. The appalling truth at length burst upon the friends of the sufferers, and the information was conveyed to them by authentic and painful documents, which detailed circumstances so horrible, that they will scarcely bear comment. Before we proceed to give an abridgment of these reports, it may not be improper to observe, that the government at Bombay dispatched the Company’s brig of war *Tigris*, in March, 1836, to Torres Straits, for the purpose of endeavouring to save the passengers and crew, who had been reported to be on Murray’s Island, or some other of the vast number of islands in the Straits.

The *Tigris*, on reaching Sydney on the 12th of June, found that his Excellency Sir R. Bourke, Governor of New South Wales, had sent the colonial schooner *Isabella* on the same object, by order of the Home Department, eight days previous to the arrival of the *Tigris* at the capital. The interest taken by persons in authority, from the

commencement to the close of the inquiry, and the anxiety expressed by official characters, as to the result of the investigations, are extremely gratifying, and do honour to the parties concerned.

It appears that the *Tigris* received some damage in a gale of wind between Hobart Town and Sydney, and was there for nearly a month, in order to put the vessel into proper repair. On the 10th of July, she weighed anchor, and proceeded to Murray's Island, where she arrived on the 29th of the same month.

A letter was left there by the commander of the *Isabella* for any ship that might touch on the island, which letter the captain of the *Tigris* received. The *Isabella*, it seems, had departed thence for Darnley's Island, and the rest which lay northward and westward, so as if possible to find out that on which the crew and passengers of the CHARLES EATON met their cruel fate. On the *Tigris* arriving at Half-way Island, she received another memorandum from the commander of the *Isabella*, containing a detail of his search; and on reaching Double Island, the vessels met, and they proceeded together to Wednesday Island, Booby Island, and Raffles Bay. The *Tigris* having grounded on a shoal not laid down in any chart, off Cape Croker, the cape bearing S.S.E. to S.S.W. distant about three miles and a half from the shore, and having the misfortune to lose her rudder, the crew were ordered on shore at Raffles

Bay, in order to cut down trees to make a new rudder; and before the repairs were completed, they had remained ten days where the accident occurred. On the 17th of August, they proceeded on their voyage, and arrived at Timor Coupong on the 24th, which was the anniversary of the natal day of the king of Holland. On the 27th, they again weighed anchor, and proceeded to Batavia, and arrived in the bay there on the evening of the 4th of September (1836).

The melancholy letters, to which we have made allusion, we now give *verbatim*, as they contain matters of great importance, connected with our tale of “*mourning, lamentation, and woe.*”

“*Murray's Island, June 26th, 1836,*

“*His Majesty's Schooner Isabella.*

“I leave this memorandum in the hands of the natives, which they promise to produce to the first European captain calling here; and it will be well to return them a trifling present on its delivery, so as to encourage their confidence in him.

“My object in visiting this place was in search of the survivors of the CHARLES EATON, which was lost on the Barrier reefs to windward; and only found two, the one *John Ireland*, and the other a little boy, named *Wm. D'Oyley*, son of Capt. D'Oyley, of the Bengal artillery; *the father and mother, and the whole of the passengers and crew, were murdered by the savages*, on an island which the natives of Murray's Island call *Boydary*; consequently, these are the only two living, whom I purchased of the natives for axes, which those of the place call *torry*. These survivors had been well treated on this island; indeed the natives saved and rescued them from the island of *Boydary*, lying to the westward, which it is also now my

object to visit, although I am rather at a loss to know which it is, seeing that there is *no native name on the charts to any of these islands within the straits.*

“The natives of this place I consider very harmless, but great thieves, also very much afraid of a gun or side arms.

“N.B. All well, and sail to-morrow, the 27th.

“CHAS. M. LEWIS, Commander.”

“*Half-way Island, July 26th, 1836.*

“*His Majesty's Schooner Isabella.*

“*Memorandum.*—This vessel was dispatched by the government in search of the survivors of the CHARLES EATON, wrecked on the Barrier reef about two years ago. I have also called on nearly the whole of the islands to the northward, after finding two of them on Murray's Island. The lad IRELAND relates the awful catastrophe, having seen the whole of his mates on the second raft, *consisting of all the crew, murdered in his presence*; the captain and passengers *shared the same fate*, on the first raft, about a week before, on the same island, called Boydary by the savages of Aural, another isle, in latitude $9^{\circ} 56' 14''$, and longitude $143^{\circ} 11' 30''$, being N. W. by W. from Half-way Island, and seen off decks. After searching all over the straits for this mysterious isle, I at last discovered it, but found no inhabitants there, they having left on the preceding night, when the ship hove in sight of their isle. I however found the skulls of the unfortunate people in the middle of the island, covered with a kind of shed, and arranged near a place where the natives generally feast on the dead. These heads of different people were placed round a head like the figure of a man, and painted with ochre. I observed long sandy hair on one of the skulls, also *great marks of violence* on them all. Having satisfied myself of the truth of the whole of this detail, I set the houses all on fire, and also destroyed every cocoa-nut tree in the place, which is the food the savages in this place

generally subsist upon. I at the same time conveyed the skulls on board, and destroyed the 'skull-house,' (Golgotha.)

"My next object is to proceed toward Double Island and Mount Adolphus, where I may find some of the sufferers; and after performing that, I mean to proceed to Sydney, having fulfilled the commands of His Majesty's government, with which I was honoured.

"Should this fall into any hands, I shall feel obliged by giving it publicity in the first port touched at, in case of any unfortunate accident happening to us ere we reach headquarters.

"CHAS. M. LEWIS, Commander.

"N.B. I have bound another bottle with a letter on the same island, and also sown some parsley seed, as I have done on the other islands."

About this period, the copy of a letter was received from the brig of war *Tigris*, which met the *Isabella* at Double Island, from which document it appears that the surgeon of the *Tigris* pronounced fourteen of the skulls to be European, which is about the number they were led to expect. The *Tigris* afterwards went to Batavia, and the little boy and Ireland returned with the *Isabella* to Sydney, where they were given into the charge of Sir R. Bourke, the governor, until they should be conveyed to England.

Captain Lewis, the commander before named, made strict inquiry of the lad Ireland, but although intelligent, the poor fellow was at a loss to recollect dates and circumstances; not much to be

wondered at, when we consider the turmoil of his mind, in consequence of the awful scene he had witnessed, and the monotonous life he had afterwards led; observing no sabbaths, or other festivals, by which he could reckon the progress of time. His account here given is less diffuse than another which we shall give during the narration, yet as it contains some matters of interest, we insert it, and the more readily, because it may be viewed as an official document.

He says, "On making the Barrier reef off Torres Straits, the ship ran into what they considered a passage in the reefs, and were so close before they discovered their error, that she took the ground, and almost immediately had her bottom broken in. The boats, in the attempt to hoist them out, were stove, excepting one cutter, which was seized upon by five of the seamen, the same who afterwards arrived at Batavia. He says, they only cared for themselves, and made no attempt to assist those on board, but after getting what they could from the wreck, made off. The ship, as a matter of course, filled immediately, and the water came up to the quarter deck, and the sea washed over her. After a day or two, a rude raft was constructed, on which the captain, and passengers, and some of the officers, with as much provisions as could be spared, left the ship, and having rigged a mast, set the sail. Five or six days after their

departure, a second raft was constructed, and the ship's company, mate, two little midshipmen, and the narrator himself, left the wreck under similar circumstances to those who had preceded them. He cannot remember how long they were on the wreck, but he says, that when they landed at the Island of Boydary, *the natives came off, and killed them all with their clubs, with the exception of himself; why they spared him, he is unable to tell.* On this island he found the two children of Captain and Mrs. D'Oyley, the one about seven, and the other about two years of age. The elder boy told the narrator that the first raft landed at that place about a week before, and that they were immediately attacked by the natives, and were all killed, with the exception of himself and his little brother. *Mrs. D'Oyley, her eldest son said, had his infant brother in her arms, when she received a blow on the head which instantly deprived her of existence! He went on to say, that the child was taken up by some of the women, and carried into a hut.* The eldest boy (George) lived about three months; and Ireland is of opinion, that from some unknown cause, the natives had some suspicion of him, and therefore killed him. Captain Lewis says, that he found the people of Murray's Island very friendly and kind. The little child had become such a favourite with the female natives, that he had considerable difficulty in getting them to part with him. After many

urgent entreaties on his part, they held a consultation among themselves, and at length gave the interesting little exile up, but many tears flowed when they separated. The poor fellow for the first three days and nights after he got on board, was quite inconsolable, in consequence of being severed from his kind and attentive nurses. The name which the natives had honoured him with, was Uas or Ewas, the meaning of which appellation is not known. He spoke the language of the natives, and conversed in it freely with Ireland, but he could not speak one word of English. From being perfectly exposed, the child had become quite brown, and was remarkably hairy all over his body. He appeared, withal, an intelligent child, and possessed of fine sparkling blue eyes. Captain Lewis took him and the lad Ireland to Sydney, preparatory to their being sent to London, if the authorities saw fit.

A brief account of some of the above circumstances appeared in the *Missionary Magazine and Chronicle* for May, 1837, (to which, perhaps, we may hereafter refer,) with an engraving of the figure round which the skulls were arranged. The body of the figure was composed of tortoise-shell, which was smeared over with ochre of a red colour, and measured 5 feet by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet. A semi-circular projection stands out from the forehead, made also of tortoise-shell, fancifully cut, and when taken from the island, was ornamented with

feathers. In the centre of the figure, from the projection upwards, was a small bundle of broken arrows bound together.

The eyes are detached, and formed with a silvery shell, something like what is called the "mutton fish," and the face is surrounded with shells, methodically arranged. Many of the skulls are attached to the figure with European cordage, and bear visible marks of savage violence; some of them being partially knocked in, and others deeply incised with heavy sharp weapons. The skulls of two females (no doubt Mrs. D'Oyley's and the Indian servant's), and two children, are among the number. The government have ordered the skulls to be consigned to the usual place of interment, and the other part to be placed in the museum. (*Vide the Engraving.*)

While it is impossible to contemplate this dreadful catastrophe without horror, and also deep commiseration for the unhappy sufferers, whose fate must ever be regretted, from whatever cause it occurred; and while the sympathetic feelings of all persons possessing sensibility must be alive to the feelings of their sorrowing relatives and friends, whose sorrows, the consolations of religion and the soothing hand of time can alone alleviate; it will, we think, be a source of great satisfaction to know that by the unwearied perseverance of one gentleman, (Mr. Bayley,) the attention of government has been drawn to the scene of this catas-

trophe; also that he has been instrumental in rescuing two fellow creatures from death, or at least from slavery, and one of those his own nephew, who would have ever been lost to his country and friends.*

On the 18th of May, Sir G. Grey sent a government despatch to Mr. Bayley, of which the following is a copy.

“SIR,—With reference to my letter of the 9th of January last, I am directed by Lord Glenelg to transmit you for your information, a copy of a despatch from the government of New South Wales, reporting the result of the search which has been made after the survivors of the wreck of the ‘*Charles Eaton*.’

“I am, &c., GEORGE GREY.”

The only additional particulars contained in this document are the following: That the unfortunate passengers and crew were *not* murdered by the islanders of Boydary, but by those of an island called Owreed, who were then at Boydary, on a fishing excursion. That these savages had taken Ireland and the child to Owreed, or some other

* It may be satisfactory to our readers to be informed in relation to the two sons of Captain D'Oyley, now at school in this country, that Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, who both knew and esteemed their lamented mother, has, with that urbanity and kindness which distinguish the exalted family of which she is a member, expressed an interest in their welfare. The eldest of them has already obtained employment in the East India Company's service; to which he will repair, as soon as his age and education qualify him for his station.

adjacent island (he is not sure which); the natives of Murray's Island hearing of some white persons being there, arrived in a canoe, and purchased them of the savages of Owreed for a bunch of bananas each, meaning by banana, the bread-fruit-tree. The purchasers removed them to Murray's Island, and treated them with great kindness during the long term they sojourned there, and gave them up to Captain Lewis with manifestations of deep regret, as they appeared to be much attached to them. Captain Lewis, it is stated in the dispatch, was on the most friendly terms with the natives during his stay there, and it was to them that he was indebted for a great deal of the information which we have given in partial detail to our readers. Among other things he was informed that the skulls of the murdered persons had been removed from Boydary to Owreed.* It was this information that determined him to proceed thither, and after a long and persevering search, he found that he had not been sent altogether upon a foolish errand. When he arrived, the island was deserted by the natives, who had, doubtless, seen the approach of his vessel; and who knows whether they might not have thought that the commander was come to take summary vengeance? Be this as it may, they

* Owreed is an island not yet noted down in the Gazetteers. It is situate in lat. $9^{\circ} 56' 7''$ S., and long. $143^{\circ} 10' 15''$ E.

contrived to decamp and vacate their hellish spot, and in their hurry they left the skulls behind them—the best evidence that could be adduced of their sanguinary character.

Captain Lewis brought off forty-five skulls, seventeen of which are said to be European. After he left this detestable speck in the ocean he proceeded through the straits to Coupang (or as we find it called, Koupang,) and from thence round Cape Lewin to Sydney. When passing through the Straits he was joined by the East India Company's brig of war *Tigris*, which accompanied the *Isabella* to Coupang, where she parted, in order to return to India.

It appears that Captain Lewis is deserving of the praise of the government which honoured him with the command, as well as the congratulations of the public generally, for the efficient manner in which he conducted the important and interesting mission with which he was intrusted.*

We have been informed, through the medium of the "*Sydney Colonist*," as well as from other sources, that the *Tigris* was very nearly lost in Torres Straits, as by getting on a reef she lost her keel and rudder. Being assisted by the *Isabella* she passed through the dangerous passage without receiving farther damage.

* We understand that he made some discoveries, which he intends to publish, and, doubtless, they will be interesting.

CHAPTER XIX.

TIDINGS FROM THE EAST.

THE *Sydney Times* of Nov. 19, 1836, has a leading article on the subject of the wreck of the *Charles Eaton*, and which gives the subsequent particulars relative to the dreadful catastrophe. In consequence of more recent statements made by John Ireland, we have been enabled to simplify the account alluded to, and now and then interweave a few observations of our own. This account goes the length of confirming that which we have already given; but there are many incidents here related, which the other has overlooked, or only incidentally glanced at.

[* * We expect to have some further interesting particulars from the lips of the intelligent lad, *John Ireland*, ere we conclude; if so, they will be inserted in a future chapter.]

On the 3rd of June, 1836, his Excellency Sir Richard Bourke, the governor of New South Wales and its dependencies, dispatched His Ma-

jesty's schooner *Isabella* upon an exploring expedition in quest of any persons who might have survived the wreck of the *Charles Eaton*, and the following are some of the particulars connected with the expedition, which will, doubtless, be read with a mournful interest.

After the vessel had struck on the reef, the unfortunate persons were enabled to cling to the wreck for fourteen days, the keel of the vessel having received a less violent shock than that of the *Stirling Castle*. Finding that her timbers were gradually starting more and more, it became evident that she could not hold together much longer, and it was agreed that they should construct two rafts in the best manner they were able, in the hope that they might reach the shore ; as during this long period all their expectations of deliverance had proved futile. This was truly a shifting of the scene ; but the removal proved to most of the hapless party the prelude to a death by far more terrible than drowning. The rafts having been formed in the best manner their skill and scanty materials would enable them, a small quantity of provisions was stowed upon them, but these proved greatly inadequate to their requirements. Captain Moore (the commander), Captain D'Oyley, his wife, and their two children, a female servant, a native of Bengal, Mr. Armstrong, the steward, and Mr. Grant, the surgeon, took possession of the first raft ; and the crew (seventeen

in number), of the second raft, which was taken charge of by Mr. Clare and Mr. Mayor, the first and second officers. It was a considerable time before they were cast upon the beach, and the weather was unfavourable. Their situation was a distressing one, as they were limited to half a biscuit and two glasses of water a day! and to add to their calamity, one of the seamen, belonging to the second raft, fell into the sea, and was drowned. The whole party who arrived at the beach on the first raft were massacred in a most barbarous manner, excepting the little child, W. D'Oyley, whom Providence has been pleased to preserve alive, and his brother George, who afterwards died. The crew belonging to the second raft appeared to have shared the same fate on landing, with the exception of John Ireland, who was preserved by the natives. The party on the second raft were nearly up to their middle in water for forty-eight hours, and when worn out by anxiety and fatigue, as well as the want of food, they at length landed on the detestable island of Boydary. When they first landed, the natives, with that lurking treachery which appears inherent in their natures, by their gestures and deportment appeared to be friendly inclined, and pretended to go in quest of water and provisions for their use. The hungry and fatigued crew sat themselves down, and several of them fell asleep on the spot where they halted,—the commencement of the sleep of death!

No sooner had the dastardly ruffians discovered that their victims were asleep, than a multitude fell upon them, and commenced the work of general slaughter; spears, knives, and waddies being called into active requisition, for the purpose of destruction. Having deprived the poor fellows of life, they next cut off their several heads, and then joined in a corrobory around the bleeding victims, and uttering wild and discordant yells of joy.

Ireland states that he was speared on the left side, and his fore-finger was very much lacerated, and cut to the bone. One of the brutes was about to cut his throat with an English knife, but he escaped from him, as if by miracle; indeed he can scarcely tell how, his mind was so perturbed and horrified by the dreadful carnage he had beheld. He says he is unable to state what were his real feelings; and we very readily give credence to his assertion.

After the rejoicing was over, the natives took Ireland away from the sixteen headless bodies of his late companions, and drove him into the bush. The thought of their unhappy fate was continually rushing upon his mind, and he was led to anticipate that sooner or later, he would suffer a similar, or perhaps a more barbarous fate. Is it to be wondered at, that such fears should possess his mind?

Five of the seamen took possession of the boat, and escaped to Timor Laut, viz. Pyall, (boatswain,) Constantine, (carpenter,) Wright, Gromble, and

Quin, (seamen.) Ireland states that they kept away before the wind, and refused to take in five other of their shipmates, who went on the reef toward them. This refusal, however, was not the result of cruelty, but necessity; for, had the beseeching party been admitted into the boat, she must have inevitably sunk, and all would have perished together.

The statement of the wreck given by the five seamen who escaped in the boat, is narrated as follows in the "*Sydney Times*."

"The barque *Charles Eaton*, commanded by Captain G. F. Moore, left Sydney, July 29th, 1834, and on August 15th following, at eight A. M. she was making for an apparent reef near Sir Charles Hardy's Island, Torres Straits, and breakers were seen ahead; in consequence of which, they made an attempt to tack, but the vessel would not stay. Both anchors were let go immediately, and the vessel came close to the reef, upon which she fell on her broadside, and the sea made a fair breach over her. The long-boat and one of the quarter boats were stove in by the concussion, which rendered their situation more perilous and distressing. The other boat was lowered, and the sailors already alluded to jumped into her. The Captain and passengers determined to remain in the ship, as they were of opinion the boat could not live, owing to the violence of the breakers. It was also stationed for two days under the lee of the reef.

“In this statement they are at variance with John Ireland, who says, that no sooner had they taken their station in the boat, than they pulled away immediately.

“The men proceeded to say, that when they left the vessel, the captain, passengers, and remainder of the crew were on her poop. After the little party and their frail bark had been tossed about for five days on the ocean, they made the east shore of the island of Timor Laut.

“As soon as they landed, they were stripped of every thing by the natives, from whom they expected further ill-treatment, in consequence of their horrible gestures. The work of death was about to commence, when an elderly man, who appeared to have some control over the others, interfered, and had their lives spared. This person afterwards took them under his protection, and treated them very kindly ; but labour, as a matter of course, was exacted from them, and great restraint was put upon their liberty. After a constrained residence in the bush for more than twelve months, they were permitted to leave the island of Timor Laut in a *proa*, bound to Amboyna, (one of the Molucca islands, containing about 50,000 inhabitants, and belonging to the Dutch,) and from thence to Batavia. During the time they resided at Timor Laut, they were informed that a large vessel had been lost in the straits about six years before their arrival, and on that occasion,

the whole of the persons on board, with the exception of two, were massacred. They were boys, and one of them died soon after he arrived on the island. None of the seamen saw the remaining lad; but they learned that he was in the interior, and had become so reconciled to the mode of life of the natives, that he had no wish to return to his native land."

It appears from these accounts, that of the twenty-six souls who sailed in the *Charles Eaton*, the five seamen named, the boy Ireland, and the child D'Oyley, were all that escaped.

Ireland states that the savages on Boydary Island feasted upon the eyes and cheeks of the persons massacred by them belonging to the *Charles Eaton*. It is stated that these rude barbarians are induced to this horrible custom, from a belief *that such conduct will increase in them a more intense desire after the blood of white men.**

It appears that a vessel was fitted out to go in quest of the crew of the *Charles Eaton*, and on the 24th of June, the launch went on shore to a small island near Murray's Island, which is called by the natives Wyer, and it has the appearance of a ruined fortification. The captain intended to

* An argument might be drawn from this custom in favour of Dr. Lang's hypothesis respecting the migration of the Polynesian nation, because it is well-known that a similar custom once prevailed in South America.

search the island, in order, if possible, to find something belonging to the lost vessel, or peradventure part of the crew. On landing with one of the sailors, they went toward a hut not far from the beach; and on looking inside it, they were struck with horror at beholding a long row of human skulls, suspended by strings made of shreds of bark; but no satisfactory conclusion can be arrived at in respect of them. The lad (Ireland) says, that none of the crew of the *Charles Eaton* were murdered on Murray's Island; and that he and the child William D'Oyley were taken from Boydary by the natives of the former. He describes the huts to be similar to those noticed by Baxter as being somewhat squatting and oblong, with a hole at the base, about two feet and a half in height, which serves for an entrance.

In some of the huts were seen the skins of human hands hanging up, either as trophies or ornaments, and it is with these that the natives partly adorn their heads on great feasting or *gala* days.

The women in Murray's Island are described as being much inferior to the men, both in personal beauty, and general symmetry. It would really seem that the order of things is somewhat reversed in these islands, for the women shave their heads, leaving only a small tuft of hair on the crown. The male natives belonging to Murray's Island are a very fine race of people.

The person who adopted the child of Captain

D'Oyley was called "Duppah," and he seems to have behaved kindly to him all the time he was on the island, and as far as that person was concerned, the lad Ireland does not much complain.

It is much to be deplored that people, such as the natives of the islands of Torres Straits, who are endowed with so many natural advantages, should be so cruel and treacherous. Perhaps the ferocity of their disposition may be attributed to the superstition which is prevalent among them.*

After remaining until the 28th of June, the exploring vessel left Murray's Island about 8 A. M. in the direction of the Isle of Darnley, at which it was their intention to touch. After a sail before a brisk gale, they nearly approached the view of their intended landing place, when their vessel struck on the extremity of Canoe Key reef, which at that part was only six feet below the surface of the water. The commander steered by the chart laid down by the most recent official survey, had no reason to suppose that he was in the least danger, and there was nothing to indicate

* The effects of superstition on the human mind have been shown amongst more enlightened people than the natives of the islands and continent near Torres Straits. The Greeks, Romans, and Carthaginians were very cruel in consequence of their superstitions. Lucretius well says,—

"Tantum religio potuit suadere maloras."

"Such devilish acts religion could persuade."

it except a slight ripple of the sea, several of which they had passed over in the course of the preceding forenoon.* Luckily for the persons on board, the commander caused the stream-anchor to be thrown out, by which the vessel (whose keel had received but little injury) righted again, and she was hove off the reef, and soon found herself riding in safety in twenty fathoms water. It was a very fortunate thing that the vessel struck at a time when the sky was clear, and the wind far from boisterous; as, had the collision occurred under opposite circumstances, the vessel and those on board might have shared a similar fate with the CHARLES EATON and the Stirling Castle, and their hapless crews.

As if to call upon their gratitude to a protecting Providence, they had not extricated themselves more than two hours, ere the sky was overclouded, the music of Boreas was heard, and the ocean, obedient to its well-known sound, commenced *a corrobbery*; but our voyagers were at safe anchorage at Canoe-Reef Bay, before the storm vented its most vengeful fury. Other circumstances than foul weather appear to have

* This circumstance lends its aid in favour of the hypothesis of surveyors, who have sounded this dangerous passage, that these sub-marine cities of coral sometimes break from their foundation, and are driven, at the caprice of the element by which they are surrounded.

caused the party to locate in this friendly little haven longer than was at first contemplated, for they did not weigh anchor to leave it, until Tuesday, July 6th, and they anchored at Darnley Isle, in seventeen fathoms water. Here the pigmy expedition waited for several days in order to gain information, if possible, relative to the circumstances connected with the unhappy persons with whom it originated. The inhabitants of this place were much more numerous, especially when geographical circumference is considered, than at the island they had lately departed from; but their manners, habits, and customs, so far as a superficial observation would warrant the conclusion, appeared to be similar with the natives who inhabit Murray's Island. Shortly after the exploring vessel had brought up, a canoe came alongside, containing ten or twelve natives. At first they evinced considerable confidence, but all on a sudden it was changed into alarm, which they manifested in such a manner, as could not be mistaken by those on board. Whether this arose from their accidentally beholding fire arms on board, or because they saw Ireland and young D'Oyley on the deck, remains a matter of conjecture; but certain it is, that from some cause or other, unfeigned apprehension took possession of their minds. The more reasonable hypothesis perhaps is, that they were actuated by regret at the loss which they had sustained, for it is evident that

so far as affection can be supposed to reside in the breasts of savages, it had found a place in their recesses in favour of Ireland and his juvenile friend. When the canoe first neared the vessel, and they saw the child, they called him "*Ewass*," and Ireland they accosted as "*Wawkie*," the name by which they were called when residing among them.

Before the canoe sheered off, one of the natives in the bow, with seeming friendship, shook hands with little D'Oyley, and then, either from real or pretended friendship, he kissed his own.

After waiting from the 5th to the 17th of July, and the natives not venturing again to the place of anchorage, it was resolved to man and arm the two boats, and send them to the shore, with the view, if possible, by bestowing small presents, to relieve the minds of the natives of any hostile intention existing to their prejudice. A conference took place between them and the natives, when they candidly declared that their long stay had created an alarm among the elders and females of their tribe; and they did not hesitate to declare that they should be heartily glad to see them depart.

The treachery and cruelty of the inhabitants of the islands in these latitudes are not confined entirely to white people who may be cast on their inhospitable shore in cases of shipwreck, but they sometimes manifest them towards each other.

Ireland relates a horrible act of cruelty which

prevails among them. Their thumb-nails are allowed to grow remarkably long, and by artificial means they keep them very hard and sharp at their edges, and it sometimes happens that when they are suddenly offended by their women or each other, they fasten these talons into the throat of their victims until they both meet, and sometimes by the incision of the jugular vein loss of life ensues. Their revenge for real or imaginary injuries takes such deep root in their minds, that Ireland knew some instances where some of his tribe lay waiting two days in order to maltreat or kill those who had displeased them.

From the observations which he was enabled to make, Ireland thinks that there were no chiefs among them, or if there were, they enjoyed a mere empty title; yet he, as well as Baxter and Mrs. Fraser, are of opinion that some degree of reverence is manifested to seniority, and in this sentiment they are supported by those writers who have obtained partial information of the customs, &c., of the various tribes which people the coast and the various islands contiguous to New Holland.

On Thursday, July 21st, the vessel weighed anchor, and proceeded from Darnley's Island by a north-west course, soon after which they hauled up toward another, which had the same woody appearance. At this time it was the intention of the captain to order out two whale-boats, well manned and armed, in order to explore two other

islands, called by the natives "*Masseed*" and *Caddow*." As soon as they neared the island already alluded to, a great number of natives came down to the beach, and instead of being armed with their warlike spears and waddies, they bore in their hands branches of trees, which, even in this rude territory, are deemed emblems of "peace."—They appeared to be very much alarmed, no doubt imagining that reprisals were about to be made, and the hour of retribution had arrived.

From a statement made by Ireland, the captain was induced to believe that they had been guilty of foul murders, and had several skulls of Europeans concealed in the bush. When interrogated upon this point they stoutly denied it, although the lad was confronted with them, and assigned a plausible reason for being so positive of the fact. What strongly inclined the commander to lean to the conjecture of the youth, was an anxious desire on the part of the natives to break up the conference and run away. The captain seeing them evince this disposition, had recourse to threats, and make it known, in terms which they well understood, that if they attempted to flee he would fire upon them, although he did not intend to carry that into execution.

After parleying for some time they regularly withdrew; and when they got at what they deemed a safe distance from danger from the muskets,

they ran precipitately into the bushes. Some little time after this retreat a canoe was seen at a distance proceeding toward another island; but before chase could be given, the crew of the boats had to haul them over a large flat, and when this was done, the canoe had got so far away, that all hope of overtaking her before dark was precluded; hence they returned to their ship, where they arrived about 9 o'clock P. M. The sudden departure of the canoe after the abrupt departure of the natives, created a suspicion (and we think not an unreasonable one) that they were bearing away some white captives to the opposite shore; but this was a mere conjecture.

The commander again proceeded on his voyage of discovery, and on the 25th of July he anchored off an island, called by the natives, "Owreed," but to which Captain Lewis gave the name of "*Skull Island*." For the purpose of exploring this island the parties went on shore, as they expected at least to find some white people in captivity, or if not, their skulls, which mementoes of mortality had caused Capt. Lewis to designate it as a "*Golgotha*." Being well armed, and their number not inconsiderable, the foraging party penetrated far into the bush, but they did not come in contact with a single native, but from a variety of causes they were convinced that the place had recently been visited by natives. During their search, they met with a number of

kangaroo dogs. After being some time in the bush, some of the party found a kind of avenue in a rocky mound, which on entering, they found to be on both its sides lined or adorned with shells, which were painted red, and at the extremity of the passage they beheld a hut, which appeared to be dilapidated by the hand of time.

The party having collected together, it was determined to enter the grotesque building, if an excavated and infernal den is worthy of such an appellation. They had not entered a moment, before the party in advance were horror-struck at beholding a large figure composed of tortoise-shells, to which were appended the skulls of several human beings. They were fixed to it by pieces of European rope, and some of the bones exhibited marks of violence, such as might have been inflicted by the force of the massive waddies, sometimes used by the natives in the work of death. The lad Ireland said, that the natives of *his* island had a similar figure, which was brought out at the time of their corrobories, on feasting days, or those of general rejoicing. There can be no doubt, we think, but that these were the relics of the mortal remains of some of our countrymen, who have been wrecked in these terrible straits

At the approach of evening, the party returned to the ship, but on the following morning they went on shore again at another part of the

island, when they found several huts, which had lately been occupied, as appeared from the ashes where the fires had been kindled. They also found several articles which had evidently belonged to some European vessel, which they brought away with them, having first destroyed all the houses or huts which belonged to the natives.*

Nothing of importance appears to have occurred until Saturday, the 6th of August, when the vessel made Croker Island. About seven P. M. they heard a gun fired, and five minutes, the sound of which was afterwards found to proceed from the "*Tigris*." Being convinced that the vessel was on shore, the captain tacked, and stood in the direction from whence the sounds had issued.

The captain judged it expedient to bring up and run down to the brig in the boats, which were launched and manned with all speed; and after hoisting lights, firing a gun, and discharging a rocket, the boats proceeded towards the distressed vessel. When the boats, after arduous and unremitting industry, reached her, she was rolling so heavily, that although alongside, it was found

* We are inclined to think that this act of spoliation was both impolitic and injudicious, as the only tendency it could produce, would be to arouse the ire of the natives, and cause them to wreak summary vengeance whenever an opportunity offered itself.

“ Harsh measures will never assuage wrath.”

very difficult to board her. The gunner informed them that she had struck with great violence on the reef, and that her rudder had been already carried away. The crew, by most praiseworthy exertion and perseverance, were enabled to back the foundered vessel off, and enable her to make sail, and at length bring her to anchor under their quarter. On the following morning they were enabled to take the vessel into Raffles Bay, and it was a matter of surprise to every one to see how well the Tigris worked her way without a rudder.*

On their approaching one of the islands, the crew beheld a large quantity of animals, some basking in the sun, and others at their gambols. These, by the aid of the glass, were supposed to be alligators; but as soon as they perceived themselves approached by the boat, they all rushed into deep water, and were seen no more.

[The following are extracts from a pamphlet written by Mr. Brocket, of Newcastle, a young gentleman who was on board the Isabella during her voyage of discovery; and we gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity of selecting a few matters which have not been hitherto noticed in full detail.]

“When the Isabella was first despatched to

* The harbour of Port Raffles is very good and secure. The anchorage is described as being in about four fathoms and a half. The anchorage is muddy, slightly mixed with sand, and is in all its parts extremely regular.

Torres Straits, the plan which was considered the best adapted to rescue our countrymen from the bonds of slavery, was to 'bring up' with few hands on deck, and to make no display of guns or other fire-arms. This prudent measure was adopted, partly for the purpose of reconciling the natives to us, and partly to restrain the seamen who might be on the shore from any act which would endanger their lives, and cause them to become a sacrifice to the natives. The captain had received orders to treat the natives with great lenity, and to barter goods for the emancipation of our unfortunate countrymen. *If, however, they should prove inexorable, we were desired to avail ourselves of other means*; and accordingly the *Isabella* was *well armed and manned*, and had every thing on board to ensure the success of the expedition.

“On the 28th of June, (1836,) we came to anchor off Murray's Island, in twenty fathoms water. When the natives came off to the vessel, we made signs to them to know if there were any white men on the island, upon which they signified to us that there was one. The captain then made known to them his desire that the white man should be brought off the island. They hesitated for some time, and appeared as if they did not like to part with him; but at length we perceived a canoe coming towards the vessel, with a white boy sitting on the platform with some of the natives. As the canoe approached us, the un-

fortunate boy exhibited the mingled emotions of fear and delight. The captain ordered silence, and there was not a single word spoken either by the seamen or natives : there was a dead silence, and it was to us all a moment of anxiety ; each of us appearing to manifest the greatest attention, and listened for the commencement of a conference. The captain at length asked the boy in what ship he had been wrecked ? to which he replied, “ The CHARLES EATON ; ” and upon being asked how many more there were on the island ? he answered that there was only a child three or four years of age. It may well be supposed that a spirit of horror was excited in our breasts, when the boy informed us that all the rest of the white people, with the exception of the few seamen who had escaped to Batavia in an open boat, were all drowned or murdered. He told us that they were murdered on an island which the natives call Boy-dary, which has no English name. The boy appeared almost stupified, arising, I should imagine, either from fear of the natives, or from over-joy from a prospect of emancipation. The captain told the boy to step forward in the canoe, with which request he immediately complied ; but it was evident that the natives wanted a ransom, as they held him for a time. They gave him up, however, for some tomahawks. The captain allowed them to trade with us a little after he had obtained the boys.

“The other boy informed me, that William D’Oyley was snatched from his mother’s arms, and that the savages killed her in a brutal manner. The natives of Murray’s Island seemed to be very partial to the child; and when the captain told him (Ireland) to bring him off in one of their canoes, they said he was crying, and would not leave the black women who had charge of him. They made other excuses of a similar description, before they allowed the boy to depart; at last, they were persuaded to bring him off. On being brought alongside, he appeared to have been much burnt by the sun. He could not speak a word of English, but could converse freely in the native language. The natives had not disfigured these boys in the least degree, which is considered a very extraordinary circumstance. The little boy cried bitterly on being given up by the natives, and I dare say, he thought he had fallen into bad hands; he soon, however, forgot his black companions, and became, perhaps, more partial to us than he had ever been to them. In a little time, he ran about the decks, and appeared quite cheerful and contented. It was astonishing to hear him describing, as we imagined, some of the events that had happened after the vessel was wrecked. He either recollected the murder of the people, or else Ireland had told him of it on the island; for he used to sit beside the sailors, and relate various things to them in the native lan-

guage, at the same time making signs, and describing the manner in which they had been massacred. Both boys had several sores about them on different parts of their bodies. The natives of the islands in the straits are very subject to sores and cancers."

[For Ireland's account of the massacre, the landing at Murray's Island, &c. vide p. 300.]

The narrator goes on to state,—

"The heat of the sun, and the different manner of living, appeared to have injured the intellect of the elder boy; he, however, daily improved both in body and mind.*

"It is not the least among the extraordinary circumstances connected with this truly tragical event, that the lady who took the charge of the ransomed child, viz. Mrs. Slade of Sydney, proved to have been at one time, intimately acquainted with the D'Oyley family. This fact is learned by a letter written by that lady to Mr. Bayley, (before referred to,) dated Sydney, Nov. 14, 1836, in which she described the child as a fine, quick, amiable boy. The letter states, that in 1809, a *twin brother* of Captain D'Oyley, together with an elder brother, went out to India with Captain Cameron, in the *Jane, Duchess of Gordon*, which ship foundered at sea, and every soul on

* Perhaps fear had its share in producing this temporary imbecility.

board perished. Mrs. Slade is the daughter of that Captain Cameron, and now resides at Sydney with her husband, who has a civil appointment under government.* Upon the arrival of the *Isabella*, Mrs. Slade waited upon the governor, for leave to have the child of her old friend delivered to her care, which request was complied with, after strict inquiry had been made. When the child was embraced by Mrs. Slade, he called her 'Mamma,' the only word he could utter in English."

* How mysterious are the ways of Providence, and how unsearchable his dispensations! A poor, bereaved, destitute child, rescued from the hands of sanguinary men, finds on a foreign shore, where he had the least reason to expect it, a sworn friend of his murdered parents, ready to supply their place, and give him not merely shelter and subsistence, but every endearment and kindness which either the remembrance of former friendship, or a view of the little fellow's helpless condition, could suggest to a compassionate mind.

The author of the history of these shipwrecks acknowledges the assistance which he has derived from a pamphlet, written by the able pen of Mr. Thos. Wemyss, which is dedicated by that gentleman to the Rt. Hon. Lord Glenelg, Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

Since the foregoing pages went to press, we have had, as we anticipated we should, an interview with John Ireland; and a fine-grown, handsome lad we can assure our readers, he is. Having progressed thus far before we saw the youth, we could not well retrograde; had we done so, the additional information,

as it might be, would have occasioned considerable delay in the publication. We read, from a duplicate copy, the narrative which was in the hands of the publisher, and requested that if any statement was incorrect, he (Ireland) would point it out, that it might be rectified. After he had heard us with attention, he pronounced that as far as it went, the detail was correct, at the same time hinting, that had he been at our elbow when we compiled it, he would have amplified the statement. He gave us a little information of which we shall avail ourselves, when we pen the chapter of "ODD BITS," connected with these catastrophes.

We observed in Ireland a great disinclination to return to sea, if he can obtain other employment; and this evidently arises not from the dislike he has of a nautical life, but from a dread which seems to have been implanted instinctively, that he may again fall into the hands of a savage tribe, whose tender mercies might be more cruel than those of the tribe with which he so long located.

From all that we can learn, the only terror which haunts the minds of our tars is, lest they should be cast upon an inhabited island, and meet with barbarous treatment: while the fortune of war, and chances of shipwreck are matters of calculation, and inspire no fear in their breasts. This circumstance alone, we think, goes to prove, that the sufferings the captives meet with must be of a most horrid description, or the dauntless minds of seamen would not be thus paralyzed.

CHAPTER XX.

“ They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the Lord; they shall cry aloud from the isles of the sea.”—ISAIAH xxiv. 14.

IT has been well observed by a writer on this subject, that “the first view of the conduct of these savages will naturally be succeeded by a burst of indignation at the atrocious massacre of the unhappy persons who were thus thrown upon their shores;—and as British enterprise and British commerce are yearly leading numerous vessels into the same dangerous region, and our seamen are consequently ever exposed to similar calamities; the question is, What can be done to prevent the recurrence of them?”

There are several methods which present themselves, as in some degree likely to accomplish this object: we notice some of them.

First.—That the British government shall send a suitable force from India and New South Wales to seize these islands, and take possession of them in the name of their sovereign, and then extermi-

nate the whole of the inhabitants ; after which settlements or colonies should be formed, in which the shipwrecked mariner may, in future, find refuge and security.

This scheme, which is sanctioned by many nautical men, we well know, is quite repugnant to the feelings of a great mass of the people, beyond which it is alike opposed to the scheme of Christianity and humanity. What right have we to seize their territory in the first place, and then by what authority could the law of extermination be put in force ? Were the British nation to take this step, they would deservedly “ become a by-word and a *proverb*” among all the civilized nations of the earth :—this being so, this method we repudiate without further observation.

Second.—Another suggestion is, to invade the islands of the sea, and in lieu of exterminating the natives, to expatriate them to the coast of New Holland, and abandon them to their own natural resources on that vast continent.

What just man can say that such a measure as this would be consistent with the principles which he holds in the highest estimation ? Were England to adopt such a measure, she would herself act the part of the savage, and add to the stains which attach to the early part of her own history.

Third.—Another method proposed is to subdue the islands, subjugate the inhabitants, and make them tributary ; but at the same time to use every

effort to civilize and improve them, so that in future they would become less formidable to those who might fall into their power.

This is, doubtless, the most feasible proposition which has been made; at all events is more consonant with the demands of justice and the law of humanity.

Fourthly. Others say, as all efforts to civilize, by merely introducing the arts of life, have proved either very tedious or absolutely ineffectual, there remains only one other plan, and that is, to introduce the Gospel among them by means of missionaries, and by translating the Scriptures into their language.

This suggestion is a kind one, but there exist insuperable objections to it, as we shall attempt to show in the sequel; but before we do so, we had better proceed with the general subject for the present.

If the indignation felt at their past conduct, and the vindictive feeling natural to man, should induce any to say that these savages are unworthy of such a boon, and that they ought to be made to feel the effects of their own barbarity, let us first consider whether there are no palliating circumstances, which may tend to mitigate the severity of our decision. Our firm belief is, that the savage character is very much misunderstood, and their actions generally receive too hasty a construction. Are they not *men*? Certainly, we say, they are;

although we may incur the displeasure of those who pretend to doubt the fact. Many of them are men married according to their rude rites ; and even where polygamy prevails among them, they manifest a desire of domestic affection ; and when among the rudest of the tribes, they show an ardent attachment to their own children, however cruel they may be to those of their enemies when they become their captives.*

It is true that they are uneducated, uncultivated, and moreover destitute of the benign influences of religious and moral instruction ; hence their will is uncontrolled, and their passions are accustomed to have their free bent ; and it is known and admitted that they lead a kind of animal life, and are unacquainted with the softer sensibilities of society.

That which is most highly estimated by them is bodily strength, and valour in combat—these are the endowments which are most highly prized,

* Baxter, in answer to our inquiry upon this subject said, that immediately after birth the child was taken from its mother, and carefully attended to ; after which it was carried to her, and on its reception the yearnings which none but a mother can appreciate, burst forth. After the recovery of the parent, which was generally after two days, the babe was carefully wrapped in the skin of a kangaroo, or some other animal, and a little hut was made of bark for it to repose in, when the mother had occasion to leave the encampment, which was always guarded by faithful dogs.

while every pursuit of a mental and intellectual nature is never cultivated, and why?—because they are unknown to them. They have no science, or any thing which deserves the name of art, yet it is quite apparent that they possess a great share of natural genius, as some of the rude, and we might add diabolical works of their hands abundantly testify. As we have said in a preceding page of this volume, their chief concern is the satisfying their natural appetites; and after they have enjoyed the precarious subsistence of the day, they lie down in sloth, and take no thought as to the morrow. Degraded as they are, and low as they stand in the scale of mental degradation, yet it is quite clear that they possess sensibilities, and can even make at least some moral distinctions—for instance, show them attention, and they remember it; perform an act of kindness for them, and they are grateful; prove by your demeanour that you do not suspect them, and they immediately throw aside their suspicion; but on the other hand, impose upon them, and they by way of retaliation will cheat you.

Those of our readers who have read history, have undoubtedly learned that our most famed circumnavigators, and other travellers, have recorded numerous actions of moral honesty manifested in their dealings, which are, alas! no part of the conduct of many who live in civilized christian England! It has been generally remarked

that in their bartering transactions with our people they have reposed a great reliance and faith, when they once discovered that they were fairly treated. Take a walk with them *unarmed*, and unaccompanied by any stranger, and they will reward your confidence, by expressing high gratification in countenance and gesture, and by escorting you in safety. Englishmen are too apt to view these beings in no other light than as wild beasts; but this arises from prejudice, and a misconception of their real character.

This is not mere assertion, for numerous instances might be adduced of Europeans proceeding far into the woods, at a distance from their ships and settlements, and where they might easily have been overpowered by numbers, and slain; yet, on the contrary, they have been hospitably treated, the best fare they could procure has been set before them, and they have been carried across streams and marshes on the shoulders of the willing natives.

In instances, too, when from the rarity and value of articles within their reach, the temptation to theft, "*the sin that doth so easily beset them,*" appeared in a manner irresistible, they have been known to abstain from touching any thing, and have proved by their self-control, that they were not the habitual pilferers they are reported to be. Perhaps we should not be wide of the mark, were we to say, that this rude people have, in this respect, been "*more sinned against, than sinning.*"

There can be but little doubt, (at least we have but little) that the greater part of those dreadful transactions which have both disfigured and outraged humanity, and which have brought so much odium on the natives of these islands, has, in a great measure, if not altogether, been owing to the outrageous behaviour towards them of European and American sailors, many of whom are themselves lawless vagabonds, and who, while employed in traffic upon these shores, discharge pistols at them, and in other respects are guilty of horrid cruelties. Whenever such occurrences take place, they are calculated to engender a feeling of revenge, which is doubtless inflicted upon the next European that falls into their power. It is the duty of every one, and a duty which ought to be enforced, to behave with the greatest mildness and caution in his intercourse with the natives; and more particularly with those whose abode lies in the track of ships, the crews of which may be, as they have frequently been, entirely at the mercy of these ignorant, but perhaps not naturally ill-disposed savages.

Who knows but that the fate of the crews of the CHARLES EATON and the STIRLING CASTLE was a vindictive return for some outrages which the islanders had suffered from persons of the same colour, at a prior period not far remote? That the islanders are cannibals, and that it is their general custom to feed the fleshy part of the arms

with apparent delight, has not only been surmised, but asserted; but in many instances the proofs have been far from satisfactory.*

That they are guilty of, yea, perhaps we may say, *addicted* by nature to thieving, is fully admitted; yet it is a question of policy whether for their depredations in this way, they ought to be punished severely. It should be remembered that they have meagre ideas of the rights of property. Children of nature, accustomed to ramble on the wild common of their own settlements, and to take freely whatever comes in their way, they have not the scruples about appropriating anything to their use which more enlightened people entertain; and perhaps, were a mild and conciliatory conduct adopted when these depredations were unattended with violence, some valuable lives would be saved, and much inconvenience prevented. Several instances of *civilised* delinquency might be quoted, far less excusable than those committed by these untutored beings. *Our people* have been known to take their canoes, and rig and fit them for their own use, thereby robbing a whole family of the principal means of getting a subsistence; and, forsooth, this vile transaction was never imagined to be in the slightest degree dishonest. These predatory habits

* These remarks do not apply to the tribes to which Mrs. Fraser and Mr. Baxter were attached, because they witnessed human flesh served up as food on more occasions than one.

on *our* part are only the exercise of "might against right." Can it be wondered at, then, that these poor ignorant people should sometimes retaliate?

Dr. Wilson, (from whose valuable work some of these remarks have been gleaned) when speaking of the aborigines of Raffles Bay, says:—

"Although it may seem paradoxical, yet I do not hesitate to say, that the natives, far from being such untameable savages as originally represented, are in reality a comparatively mild, and by nature and in disposition a merciful race of people. They have frequently interposed their good offices to prevent the children of the soldiers from being chastised. I have seen them run between the mother and the child, and beg the former to desist from what seemed to appear to them very unnatural conduct, viz. to punish their own offspring. Like all uncivilised people, they are very irascible, but very easily pacified; in short, they require to be managed just like children. They were easily taught to distinguish conventional right from wrong, and many instances occurred which proved their aptitude in this respect. They placed implicit reliance on those who, having given a promise, performed it punctually."

The same may be observed of other savages, in whatever quarter of the globe; and whoever reads "*Halkett's Account of the North American Indians*," will find many traits of character in which they excel their white brethren. There is

a rationality, a courage, a patience, a self-denial, and a resignation amidst trials, that would do honour to any race of men ; they are an injured people, and like all other injured people, they have been traduced and vilified by their oppressors, by way of excuse for the injury they inflicted on them.

It cannot be doubted that if a British settlement were founded on some one or other of the islands of the Torres Straits, or on the north coast of New Holland, very great advantages would be derived from it, and would not only facilitate intercourse between the Chinese and the Malays, or furnish an entrepôt for commerce, which would assuredly create a great reciprocal advantage ; but what is of much higher importance, it would form a convenient place of refuge in cases of shipwreck, which are of such frequent and melancholy occurrence in the adjacent seas.

Mr. Wemyss, a gentleman to whom we beg to express our high obligations for the occasional assistance he has rendered us, writes thus, in reference to the important *desideratum* to which we have copiously alluded :—

“ But let us look higher ; and though mammon be the ruling deity of the day, though exports and imports—traffic and barter—produce and specie, be the great objects of commercial pursuit ; yet in this late age of the world, can we find nothing else to send to our brethren of mankind on foreign

shores? Are cottons and calicoes, iron and cutlery, the only exportable commodities? May not arts and sciences be exported; above all, that most ennobling science which teaches men '*to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent?*' This science has been already proved to be the only effectual mode of civilizing barbarians, of refining the rude, of restraining the passionate, and taming the vindictive. It has been tried: let it be tried again; once introduced and received, their islands will cease to be a Golgotha—'a place of skulls;' '*the Ethiopian will change his skin, and the leopard lie down with the kid.*' The promise of God to give his Son the heathen for his inheritance is sure to be fulfilled sooner or later. The success of the past also gives a good augury for the future. The triumphs of Christianity in the South Sea Islands; the remarkable improvement of the Caffre tribes; the change wrought on Canadian savages, and the influence of the gospel on West Indian negroes: to say nothing of the light thrown upon geography and natural history, the discovery of new channels for trade and commerce, the contributions made to science in general, and all the other benefits accruing from the extension of pure and undefiled religion,—these are sufficient not only to recommend past efforts, but to encourage to future exertion in this great and holy cause.

“It may be said, and indeed it has been said,

that while extensive and populous continents, where life and property are to a considerable extent protected by law, remain destitute of the light of the gospel, these continents are the field which every consideration points out as the proper province of missionary exertion. While myriads in Africa and America, and millions in various parts of Asia, continue ignorant of saving truth, *why should the resources of Christian labour be consumed in missions to a few scattered islands?*"

This reasoning is really, at first view, very plausible. Missionaries among savage islanders, where no laws afford them protection, are not merely exposed to persecution for "righteousness' sake," as in other places, but to the danger of being murdered for the sake of plunder, or simply from the impulse of a barbarous disposition. All this is very true: but the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the reception which the gospel has already met with in Polynesia, after an exercise of faith and patience for many years, proves that the directors of the London Missionary Society did not miscalculate when they pitched upon that unpromising region for the sphere of their earliest labour. In fact, it is to this day uncertain whether at any former period these islands in the Pacific Ocean had ever heard the name of Christ, and they might have remained in the same deplorable ignorance almost to the end of time, but for the philanthropy and zeal of British Christians.

To have evangelized Tartary or China might have appeared a more splendid achievement, and might have produced larger fruits ; but when we consider the advantages accruing to our commercial vessels which every season visit these scattered isles ; and the benefit arising to our shipwrecked sailors from having a temporary home in such as have been *christianized*, the case assumes a high degree of importance. China is at present, and has for a long time past, been hermetically sealed against missionary enterprise ; whereas these islands present an open door to all who are willing to make the attempt. Nor is the population of these islands on a despicable scale ; the aggregate number of the inhabitants being very great. There are many large and extensive groups, such as the New Hebrides, New Caledonia, the Teejee islands, and New Guinea, which are said to be 1200 miles long, and in some parts 300 miles broad. The Teejee comprise from 100 to 200 islands, varying in size from five to 500 miles in circumference. The various groups already christianized embrace a population of from 275,000 to 300,000 persons. If in the language of prophecy it is said, “ *Kings shall see and arise, princes shall worship ;*” the same volume assures us that “ *the isles shall wait for his law.*”

The abject state of the inhabitants of the numerous islands which are scattered about the seas contiguous to New South Wales, and Australia,

has for a long time occupied the attention of the christian, the philanthropist, the politician, and the emigrant; all of whom agree, that their civilization is an important *desideratum*, especially as these islands are probably destined at no distant day to be important specks in the map of British territory; but different opinions have been expressed as to the means to be used in order to effect this purpose.

It is the opinion of some that the most efficient mode would be, in the first place, for the Government to form a "*Civilization Society*," upon a plan something like the following,—viz. :

That a number of persons of good character be sent at the expence of Government to the principal islands, who are versed in mechanical and agricultural knowledge.

That these persons have with them a sufficient number of soldiers to protect from outrage, but at the same time under orders not to intimidate the natives.

That the work of civilization should take the precedence, in order to prepare their minds for the reception of gospel instruction.

That the settlers should make it their study to conciliate the natives in every possible way, by making them presents of such articles as are held in the highest estimation by them, so as to inspire that confidence, which appears to be the principal step towards attaining the desired object.

Whether such an attempt will be made in our day we know not ; but it appears to us to be well deserving consideration on the grounds of humanity and sound policy, apart even from those of a moral and religious kind. Could such settlements be established as are here suggested, they would afford an asylum for shipwrecked mariners, and prevent their falling into the hands of the savages. It is also worthy of consideration, whether it should not be promulgated to the different tribes, that they would be amply rewarded for the rescue of every life which came within their power, and we doubt not but their natural cupidity would preponderate against their sanguinary disposition.*

* It is admitted by almost every one with whom we have conversed on the subject, that the attempt at civilization ought to be resorted to, and not the work of extirpation, as some have suggested. There is ample encouragement to induce the former, from the happy results which have crowned the labours of those who have visited Owhyhee, the natives of which island, savage as they were sixty years ago, when they shed the blood of our immortal circumnavigator, Captain Cook, are now not only more than demi-civilized, but in some degree evangelized, through the instrumentality of British missionaries and British mechanics ; at all events they have repudiated many of their barbarous, brutalizing customs, and substituted those which are consonant to the spirit of true religion and right reason.

Who can tell but the savages inhabiting the regions of which our history treats, may act, ere long, as those did at the place where the vessel touched, in which Paul made his memorable

We have ever been an advocate for missionary exertions, yet it has often struck us that there ought to be persons going before them like pioneers to clear the way; and this might be, in some degree, effected by the adoption of a plan like that which we have suggested. These harbingers, by means of friendly intercourse with the natives, would learn their dialects, and be able to act as interpreters to the missionaries when their minds were prepared for their reception.

Of all men living, perhaps the persons who go forth as missionaries are, physically speaking, the most unfit for hardships and privations; and their habits and studies must have precluded their having great *practical* knowledge of men and things. Hence they carry with them, and act upon notions which are founded on evangelization, and *insist* where they ought to *humour*. It should be known that prejudices will never yield so easily to coercion as they will to mild and persuasive measures. The Christian missionary should remember the plan

voyage to the capital of the Roman empire, nearly 1800 years ago? The great apostle, after giving a detailed narrative of the wreck, and the fears and sufferings of the sailors and passengers, says,—

“ And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita. And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.”—Acts xxviii. 1, 2.

upon which his great prototype acted, viz. to “*become all things to all men, so that he might save some.*”*

The following judicious remarks are made by a writer in the *Missionary Chronicle* for May, 1837,

* While writing upon this subject (and we deem it an all-important one,) we shall be excused for extracting a paragraph from a widely-extended and respectable journal, in order to show that there are others who have ventured to assert this opinion as well as ourselves.—“The ‘*VICTOR*,’ Capt. Crozier, returned to Sydney on the 27th of December, 1836, having been three months absent, visiting various South Sea Islands, in the course of which she picked up nine seamen belonging to different whalers, some of whom had suffered much from the treatment of the savages. A French brig had been captured some short time since, and the captain and part of the crew murdered by the natives of the Feejee Islands. *It appeared, however, that the outrageous and unprincipled conduct of the Europeans had brought the punishment on themselves, and the same may be said of the ‘ACTIVE,’* English vessel, two of the crew of which are now restored to civilized life, their shipmates having been murdered between two and three years ago. *The officers of the ‘VICTOR’ speak very highly of the natives whom they have visited in various islands during their trip, who exhibit the rapid march of improvement through the exertion of missionaries, a considerable drawback to whose exertions exists in the too rigid discipline of the natives, the missionaries appearing to require too much from them, and treating them as if they had been born in a civilized country. Many of the natives complained of their dances, and other amusements, being prohibited, and hence the instructions administered were, in many instances, disregarded.*”—*LONDON WEEKLY CHRONICLE, June 18th, 1837.*

relative to the catastrophe we have already narrated ; we hope they will be duly estimated by our readers.

“ Under whatever feelings the natives of this island acted, whether in revenge for some real or imagined wrong they had received from a vessel by which they had been before visited, or the outrage and violence of convicts from New South Wales, who had reached their shores,—from a desire of plunder, or from savage delight in shedding blood, no Christian mind can contemplate the horrible massacre, without the deepest commiseration for the unhappy sufferers.

“ But, while sharing these feelings in common with others, the friends of missions will in this transaction see new reasons for increased liberality and zeal in sending forth the humanizing gospel of peace. They will also perceive in this event additional evidence of the advantage of missions. How differently would the shipwrecked crew have been treated, had a missionary dwelt on the island, or had the natives been made acquainted, by his occasional visits, with the truths of the Bible : Then, instead of being met, as they landed, with the murderous club, they would have been welcomed and cheered by sympathy and succour ; instead of the grave, they would have found a home, as comfortable as the resources of the island could have made it ; instead of their countrymen having been sent to search for their mangled bodies and unburied bones,

the natives would have worked, to assist them in providing the means of returning to their friends, even though such efforts should have met with no other compensation than forgetfulness. Deeds of murder, equally appalling, were perpetrated at the Sandwich and Society groups, and other islands of the Pacific, after their first intercourse with shipping, and when there were no missionaries among them; but since they have received the instructions of missionaries, they have treated the mariners with kindness, protected any property which they might have rescued from the deep, mitigated, to the utmost extent of their power, the calamity of shipwreck, and thus proved the true friends of humanity, and entitled themselves to the esteem and gratitude of the benevolent in every part of the world. These facts, while they animate those already engaged in the work, will, it is hoped, recommend Christian missions to the encouragement and aid of many who may not hitherto have contributed to their support.”*

Notwithstanding we have ventured an opinion as to the seeming inutility of sending missionaries before the way is, in some small degree at least,

* This statement reminds us of a fact which was noticed in the early part of the work, viz. the hopes that Captain Fraser and his companions entertained, that they might reach some spot where a Christian missionary was located, and through whose influence they might find succour in the day of tribulation.

paved for their reception, and their probable usefulness,—we should be sorry to be misunderstood upon this important subject. From our early youth, we have been staunch friends to missionary endeavours, and unflinching advocates for them, when attacks have been made by infidels or others, who view them as chimerical and Utopian. Nothing is more certain than the fact, that wherever Christianity is planted, she carries on her heavenly wings blessings which are calculated to make “*the heathen to rejoice and be exceeding glad;*” and in exact proportion as her humanizing doctrines are disseminated or suppressed, will civilization and morality, which may be considered as her two handmaids, be extended or limited. Nor is it to us a matter of consideration by whom this good may be effected, whether by a Paul, an Apollos, or a Barnabas; yet we hope that a sectarian spirit will never find its way to “*the isles of the sea.*” Time was when our ancestors were as rude in their manners, and as cruel in their dispositions, as are “*the wild untaught Indian brood;*” yea, as barbarous perhaps as at present are the savages of New Holland: what then has made us to differ? The diffusion of gospel truth; and in proportion as that has been received, have we progressed in moral intelligence, and the cultivation of the arts and sciences; “*for godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*”

It is acknowledged on all hands that the inhabitants of the Emerald Isle stand pre-eminent for shrewdness, and native intelligence; yet how low do the peasantry stand in point of moral elevation, when compared with those of our own country, and that part of the United Kingdom called Scotland! What is then the cause of this disparity? Why the wide dissemination of religious truth, and the progress which has been effected by means of education and moral instruction. How widely different is England now, from what it was when a little band of Wesleys and Whitfields broke through the walls of university cloisters, and went forth among the colliers at Kingswood, and other heathenish parts of the land, at the peril of their lives, and instructed the inhabitants in the way of truth! The change which has been effected in those neighbourhoods is of a truly cheering character, and the fact is too self-evident to be denied for a moment.

We are aware that giving our opinion upon such a subject may expose us to the scorn and ridicule of *a few*, but we feel assured that those for whom we write, namely, *the many*, will agree with us; considering as we do that he who takes up his pen (however humble it may be) ought ever to avow his sentiments, regardless of censure on the one hand or of commendation on the other. We often think, and deeply too, upon the declarations of prophecy, that God “*will give his Son the heathen*

for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession ;” and feel convinced that eventually “ *all the kingdoms of the earth will become his kingdoms, and his dominion over them be an everlasting dominion.*” Then how great will be the amount of happiness which will flow to all the human race, when the Gospel has met with universal and complete success ! Great progress has been made within the last forty years in missionary exertions by almost every sect into which the christian world is divided, but at present they are only in their infancy.* Their past exertions have been crowned with signal success in some parts of the globe, and with partial good in others ; so that they are encouraged to go on, obeying the instruction of wisdom, which teaches them—“ *In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand, for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall prove alike good.*”

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- * Who in the mightiest river hath not seen
 A spring unlook'd for, shallow, poor and mean ?
 Meandering on, unconscious at its source,
 What tributary streams might join its course ;
 Supplied along by many a gurgling rill,
 At length becomes a stream to turn a mill ;
 Rolling its flood through many a lengthened mile,
 Becomes at last a Ganges or a Nile !

These lines are exemplified in the “ source ” and “ course ” of the Thames, the queen of rivers.

In our introduction (page 4), we referred to the gallant conduct of Lieutenant Otter; and we do hope, that men of talent, wealth, and above all, of *sterling piety*, may volunteer, like him, in such a cause. Men born to princely fortunes, risk them in order to obtain honour and fame. How many who seek a competence go out to India, and endure the heat of the climate, and the fatigues of study, in order to acquire the language of the natives! The finest scholars devote themselves to travelling in the most inhospitable regions, from a love of science, and in order to become perfect in the knowledge of geography, botany, natural history, and geology. Let such listen to and obey the command of Him whose life was spent in doing good—“ *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*”

“ Already,” says a recent writer on this subject, “ already the Burmans are calling for teachers, and the word of life: Hindoos cry, ‘ *Come over and help us:*’ China groans to be free; Africa stretches out her hands to God; the American aborigines thirst for the waters of life: but then the desire shall be fulfilled, the arms shall embrace the longed-for boon: the parched soul shall be satisfied with heavenly cordials; and days come on this apostate world, such as it never saw since the creation of man: and all nations, people, kindred and tongues, shall bow before the throne of Him ‘ *who is over all, God blessed for ever.*’ ”

CHAPTER XXI.

*A Chapter miscellaneous, but not irrelevant—odd bits—
on-dits, shreds, patches, &c. &c.*

WHEN penning the early pages of the history which is now drawing to a conclusion, we had an expectation of being able to give something in the shape of a memoir of the lamented Captain Fraser ; but a circumstance, not at that time anticipated, has dried up the spring which we expected would be the source from whence to draw our information, therefore we abandon the proposed task.

From all that we have been able to collect respecting him, it appears that from his early youth he became a votary to Neptune, and with the exception of the disasters which appeared to have been reserved for his latter days, his life was monotonous—we mean, he was either making a voyage or preparing for one. For a long series of years the stream ran smooth, and his trips, as he called a sail to the antipodes, rendered him, if not a scientific, yet a clever nautical man, in the ordinary sense in which the phrase is received. He

was, moreover, a person of strict probity, as many can testify who frequent 'Change and Sweeting's Alley; and his constant engagements are the best proofs of the estimation in which he was held by the owners of vessels and the underwriters at Lloyd's. As a commander we are assured that he combined the simplicity of the Christian with that sternness which is ever and ought to be a prominent feature connected with his nautical and highly responsible station, thus insuring the affections of his crew and obedience to anticipated desires, which in a great degree superseded dictation on his part. It has so happened that we have fallen in with those who were united to him by the ties of consanguinity and strict friendship, and they all concur as to his being moral in his deportment, urbane in his manners, and in altitude and features, what is deemed a handsome man; who fell a victim to wanton barbarity on an inhospitable shore, ere (we believe) he had completed his fifty-sixth year.

In an early page we hinted that we had been favoured by a copy of verses which were once addressed by the sister of Captain James Fraser, and which we promised to give, because they have, to say the least of them, a collateral connexion with our history. This sisterly effusion contains much good advice, given in a narrow compass; and the fair writer deserves our praise. Young men entering upon life, we think, might read

this to advantage, because the rocks and quicksands alluded to, exist on the *shore* as well as in the *ocean*.

[* * The respectable female who gave us the MS. has since expressed her disinclination that it should be published, wishing, as she says, to avoid being brought into public notice. Anxious as we are to listen to feminine requests, we are unable, after the promise we made in an early page of this work, to comply with that of our fair correspondent, well knowing that the lines about to be introduced contain excellent advice, and convey a moral lesson upon the very important points to which they have allusion.]

*A Sister's Advice.**

Accept, dear *James*, from thy most anxious friend,
 Some useful counsel by affection penn'd.
 To my advice you've oft indifference paid,
 Which bids me hope this last will be obeyed.
 Then, my dear brother, kindly plead excuse
 For every error in your sister's muse.
First, my young sailor, let me recommend
 In life's fair spring to make your God your friend.
 That Power which you in bloom of youth engage,
 Will ne'er desert you in declining age
 Unto your mother every reverence pay,
 'Tis God's command her precepts to obey.
 Be duteous, tender, open and sincere ;
 She then shall love thee, and thy name revere.

* Written when Captain F. was in early life.

Be firm in friendship—scorn all mean disguise.
 Nor suffer mean resentment to arise.
 Beware of passion, it unmans the soul,
 If once indulged, it never brooks control.
 Temperance, dear *James*, I warmly recommend,
 In fumes of wine too oft is lost a friend.
 Trembling I charge thee, fatal gambling shun,
 A desperate vice, which thousands have undone !
 Oh ! fly the frenzy with contempt and scorn ;
 Though mad at night, reflection comes with morn.
 Of wedlock's state I can but little say,
 For youthful hearts in general take their way :
 I only raise to Hymen's throne my voice,
 That he may lead you to a happy choice.
 Dear *as you are*—detested be *your name*,
 If ere you bring the innocent to shame,
 Or stain the honour of a virtuous race,
 Or bring a hapless female to disgrace.
 Scorn not their ruin—every aid pray lend,
For man was made their honour to defend.
 When we're apart—thou on some distant shore,
 Think on the writer, and these lines read o'er.
 They are her counsels, and with hope sincere,
 She trusts *James Fraser* will to them adhere.
 Then will his fame ever unclouded shine,
 His age will brighten as his years decline.

M. A. F.

To Captain James Fraser, &c.

THE PIETY OF A YOUTH.

Mrs. Fraser gives an interesting proof of the piety and filial confidence in God, manifested by young Fraser, the Captain's nephew, aged thirteen, under circumstances the most appalling.

After the Stirling Castle had struck on the Eliza Reef, and the Captain had declared it was impossible she could "live" for any length of time, the little boy was missing; the sound of his voice led Mrs. Fraser to open the door of the cabin water-closet, when she discovered him on his knees, audibly imploring the forgiveness and the mercy of God upon all those who like himself (in his situation) were about to perish in the deep. Addressing her he said, "Aunt, are you prepared for death?" What a question, and at such a moment too, from such a child! She replied, "Robert, I am afraid I am not prepared for death." He then said, "Pray, aunt, pray—that's the only way—God will have mercy on us!" She then said, "Robert, how do you feel yourself—do you think you are ready?" He replied emphatically, "I hope so: the Lord's will be done!" The little fellow outlived the wreck, but finally the waves of the sea became his winding sheet; and who *dare* doubt that the Lord, to whose will he was resigned, took him to that place where prayer is never heard?

Although the youth with the others escaped from the wrecked vessel, it may be said in reference to him, that "*the time of his departure was at hand,*" for after the lapse of a few intervening days, "*he finished his course*" on earth, by being drowned when searching for oysters, as has already been noted in the early part of our narrative, and

he thereby escaped many of the horrible sufferings and privations, which his relatives and companions were doomed to undergo.

CONFIDENCE IN GOD A PREVENTION OF SUICIDE.

Amidst sufferings so dreadful, and the infliction of them so unremitting almost on every consecutive day, their only prospect of deliverance from which was death either by torture or starvation, it would have been no wonder if they had been tempted by their own hands to have “dared the presence of the God who made them!” That they were tempted more than once to commit the dreadful deed, they will not dare to deny; but the preventing interference of Heaven restrained them from doing *this evil in his sight!*—“*His strength was made perfect in their weakness.*” They were taught to obey the moral to Cowper’s little poem, called “The Needless Alarm,”—

“Beware of desperate steps. The darkest day,
Live till *to-morrow*, will have pass’d away.” *

* The author cannot refrain from adverting, by way of note, to a circumstance which, when it occurred, gave him great pain, and has since been a frequent source of mournful recollection. A very few years since a youth, with a head possessing literary and intellectual wisdom, and a heart as kind as it could be expected a youthful heart to be, buoyant with hope, callous to fear, indifferent to every thing but obedience to

“ *They cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them.*” And they did not cry in vain. What an awful sense must they have had of a present Providence at the time they were about to be rescued ! Who can tell the overpower-

those to whom, in a literary sense, he was subordinate ; but his heart was not shielded against the darts of Cupid, nor was his brain proof against tenanting a suspicion of unrequited love. On the day we last saw him, (the last day but one that he lived !) he had seen that which excited a conviction in his mind that his fair one was a coquette, and he became suspicious that he had a successful rival. He was then about to take a hasty ride to a fashionable watering place, fifty miles from a respectable tavern, in which we for the last time met. Oh ! that he had then unbosomed himself,—we should have been able to prove that his surmises were unfounded, and that the object of his choice doted upon him with that ardent affection which is ever the concomitant of genuine female love.

He travelled and arrived at *B——n*, and ere the dawn of the following day he was a suicide !

From respect to his friends we forbear the mention of names ; but many of those who read this narrative will be sure to remember the catastrophe of their youthful intelligent friend, and the following lines, which were written *extempore* the day after his interment.

The body was laid in the burial ground of Lady Huntingdon’s, or what is commonly called Spafields Chapel.

Extempore Reflection, penned in White Conduit Gardens.

“ ’Tis but a week—a little week
 Since healths we quaffed, and hands we parted ;
 The bloom of health was on his cheek,
 I little thought him broken-hearted !

ing fear and agonizing doubts which pervaded their minds, and then alternately the joy, the gratitude and extacy, amounting almost to delirium, which caused their hearts to palpitate within them! We ardently hope that all those who have been especial objects of favour in the sight of Heaven, so as to escape from their enemies by miracle, will ever evince their gratitude to Him who hath brought them out of "*the valley of the shadow of death*"—and they can only do so by keeping His commandments. Their daily language ought to be, and we hope it is—" *I will magnify the Lord as long as I live, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.*"

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE OF GOD'S WAYS TO MAN.

The lip of truth hath declared that, "*when the judgments of the Lord are abroad in the earth, the inhabitants thereof will learn righteousness.*" Perhaps it may have been from this consideration that when some great *evil hath visited a city*, a kind of religious commotion has been observable. With-

This morning I beheld the grave
 Where weeping friends had lowly laid him;
 And sighed that man should dare *to brave*
The presence of the God who made him!
 But let him rest—his faults were few,
 And such as may be well forgiven;
 Save *one dread deed*—and may that too
 Find favour in the sight of Heaven!"

out reciting cases generally, we need only refer to the plagues and fires in London, and the epidemic called *cholera morbus*, which prevailed at so recent a period, that it need scarcely be alluded to, except to remind those who survived, how they lamented the death of those they held dear, and the dread *they then expressed* lest they also should be numbered with the dead !

Also when a frightful thunder-storm has visited a location (for they are generally partial in their destructive operation), how great an alarm has been created !

There was one visited London and its environs, A. D. 1806, when the writer was a mere lad, and on the following Sunday the awful event was de-scanted upon by preachers who occupied the pulpits on that day, both episcopalians and dissenters. We remember well, and hope ever to remember, attending a service at St. George's Church, South-work, on the sabbath alluded to, when a then popular divine propounded the question to young persons, and made it the motto of his discourse—*“ Hast thou an arm like God, or canst thou thunder with a voice like him ? ”*

In the destinies of empires those services are not overlooked, and particularly in protestant countries, where solemn fasts are appointed in times of war and other dire calamities, and days of public thanksgiving after a great victory, &c.

Sometimes there are facts so strikingly impor-

tant in the fates or destinies of *individuals*, as to call forth public attention and religious feeling. This was the case in respect of the happy deliverance of Mrs. Fraser, Baxter, and a few of their companions. No sooner had they reached Sydney, than the inhabitants of the metropolis of the new world prevailed upon the Bishop of Australia to preach a public thanksgiving sermon in the principal church, in order to return thanks for the mercies vouchsafed in the preservation of seven fellow-creatures from a horrid captivity, and restoring them to civilized society. The service must have been a solemn and impressive one.

In our own country, the fact of their deliverance gave rise to some stated public religious services, one or two of which we attended; and we have been told that several divines connected with the established church, and the various sects of dissenters, made incidental, and some of them striking, allusions to the captivity, sufferings, and deliverance of the persons of whom our history treats.

Notice was publicly given, that on Sunday, August 27, a sermon would be preached at the Mariners' Church, Wellclose-square, by Mr. G. C. Smith, in order to return thanks to God for his preserving mercy, &c.

As it was announced that Mrs. Fraser and other persons connected with this history would be present,

the church was crowded to excess ; and among the audience were several officers of the royal navy in their uniforms, and a great number of captains and masters of merchant vessels. The rev. gentleman chose for his text the following words :—
“ *O God of our salvation, who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea.*”—Ps. lxxv. 5.

The discourse was certainly not only appropriate, but excellent, and what may properly be termed a nautical one. The knowledge which the preacher possessed of navigation and maritime affairs, enabled him to make statements and allusions which riveted the attention of a dense auditory, some of which were very striking, and produced an evident sensation—the thumb of many a tar wiped the rebel tear from his eyelash.

We give the substance of the concluding observations, because they remind us of *Flavel's* famous book, “ *Navigation Spiritualized,*” and show also the ingenuity of the preacher. Some of the places referred to are dotted in *Our map of New South Wales* ; but the scale to which we were confined precluded the insertion of every speck connected with the passage from Sydney to India, by the way of Torres Straits.

The rev. gentleman, in the beginning of his discourse, remarked upon the chart of the Sea Islands, &c., which are marked down in connexion with that part of the ocean where the “ *Stirling Castle*”

and *Charles Eaton* were wrecked. There were some of the places, he said, which so exactly corresponded with the voyage of the Christian from time to eternity, that he should be excused making a few observations upon them, and he was the more induced to do so because most of them derived their names from gallant commanders and circumnavigators, in consequence of disasters they had experienced in this dangerous sea, or of mercies which they had received.

(1.) In the first place he would notice a water marked down on the canvass, which is called "*Trinity Bay.*" Here it was that sinful man cast anchor for a season when he commenced his spiritual life, which is often compared to a voyage. The anchor of his hope was in a triune God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who dispenses pardon, redemption, and sanctification.

(2.) Looking a little further on, you perceive "*Cape Tribulation*" stands conspicuous on the chart; and it was impossible for the Christian voyager to arrive at the end of his travel without touching at it. "*For it is through much tribulation we must enter the kingdom of heaven.*" His hearers would notice the word *much*, for indeed it was verified in the experience of every one; and no doubt the commander who gave this place the name, had to struggle with some extraordinary difficulty, which however, by perseverance and the mercy of Heaven, he overcame. Thus will it

be with the Christian, if he relies upon the Anchor which is sure and steadfast.

(3.) After beating about for a considerable time near this cape, tempest-tossed and care-worn, and having been deprived of the light of the sun, moon, and stars for many days, the weather clears up, and the sails are again set; and whither proceeds the vessel? Why, into "*Providential Channel*," which is the next place he should notice on the interesting canvass. The voyage of life is a chequered one, and happy for the Christian sailor that it is so. Were he to remain almost continually at *Cape Tribulation*, his soul would be dispirited, and he would be discouraged because of the perpetual roughness of his way. But having got into the clear stream of *Providential Channel*, his vessel glides gently along upon the smooth surface; and instead of clouds and darkness being round about, a brilliant sunshine settles on the head of her top-gallant-mast. While in that current, there are no "coral reefs," shoals or quicksands, and no reason for fearful apprehensions as to her fate.

(4.) The next place he should notice in the chart is *Endeavour Straits*. How illustrative again of the progress of the Christian navigator! It would not do for him to sail always on clear water and under a cloudless sky, for if that were so, he would become listless, and perhaps self-secure. In order to prevent this, the Great Pilot ordains that their energies shall be called into action, so

that they may behold the necessity of using their *endeavours* so to steer that they may in due time arrive at the desired haven.

(5.) The last place which he should remark upon, as connected with the latitude of the globe under consideration, was “*Cape Deliverance.*” Blessed cape! When the christian sailor arrives here, he may say, Farewell, raging seas; farewell, *Borean* winds; farewell, cloudy days and stormy nights! Then will the fair haven of a happy eternity expand to his delighted view.

“ Heaven opens on his eyes : his ears
With sounds seraphic ring.”

Arrived at this blessed cape, he may exultingly exclaim—“*My warfare is ended, my voyage is accomplished,*” and instead of anticipating boisterous waves, he may look forward to the stream “*which maketh glad the city of God,*” and sing—

“ There shall I bathe my weary soul
In seas of heavenly rest;
And not a wave of trouble roll
Across my peaceful breast.”—

“ He’s been our *Pilot*, favour’d crew,
He hush’d the winds that rudely blew,
And op’d the *port* to our raptur’d view,
Where we shall *moor* in glory.”

* * * The author begs to state, that the above observations are not *verbatim* those of the rev. gentleman who uttered them; the service was so

impressive, that his *short-hand* became unnerved, and therefore he has written from the aid supplied by the faculty of memory—a handmaid which seldom forsakes him ; but which, excellent auxiliary as it is, will never do justice to a speaker' unaided by the graphic evolutions of the stenographer.

The rev. gentleman above alluded to, and who has been respectfully named in the course of this work, and his poetical effusions inserted, addressed a letter to the lord mayor (a copy of which was transmitted to us), in which he gives his opinion upon several matters relevant to that to which some of our pages have reference. Among other things he says,—

“ The notoriety and excitement in the case of Capt. Fraser's widow and her orphan boys, have enforced in my mind, in connexion with many other most agonizing cases, the absolute necessity of repeating and re-urging our application to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, for one of our many otherwise useless *un-seagoing* ships of war, and for craving your Lordship's permission, as conservator of the Thames, that she might be cradled, and moored end on to the shore in the river, for the purpose of a prompt asylum to take about 1000 *orphan boys* of shipwrecked, castaway, killed, or poor destitute captains and sailors, where they might be clothed, victualled, lodged, and trained up with a nautical, and also with a decidedly religious and temperance education.

“ If your Lordship were to promote this application, it might convey to posterity a brighter monument of the period when your Lordship filled the civic throne of the first city in the world, than all the marble pillars or tablets a grateful metropolis could possibly raise to your memory, as ‘ *The father of the fatherless.*’ ---Sept. 27, 1837.”

AUSTRALIA.

Until within these few years, no attempt had been made to explore this coast; but in 1827, Capt. *Stirling* sailed from Sydney, and reached *Gazé's Roads*, at the mouth of the Swan River. As yet but little intercourse has been held with the natives; but so far as they have been observed, they differ but little from those of Port Jackson. At first very high expectations were formed as to the probable prosperity of this colony, and it received the encouragement of the British government, by an order from the Colonial Office in 1827. The report of Mr. *Fraser*, who accompanied Captain *Stirling's* expedition, was very favourable in regard to its climate, soil, &c. But the more recent accounts have been unfavourable; many settlers have returned in a state of destitution, and it must be left to *time* and *experience* to determine the stability of its future prospects.

The successive accounts which have been published of this colony, show a very rapid progress in its wealth and population. By the census taken

in 1821, it appears that the settlers amounted to 40,000, and at the present time it is supposed to be at least 60,000. The climate in the vicinity of the colony is highly salubrious, though the heats in summer are sometimes excessive; the thermometer ranging from 95° to 100° in the shade. This, however, happens only during the hot winds, which do not last above ten or twelve days in the year. The general heat of summer is about 80° at noon. In winter hoar-frosts prevail; and at a little distance from the coast ice is found. The rain generally falls in March, April, and May. The coast for about five or six miles is encircled with a girdle of barren soil, and for ten miles further there is no visible improvement. But after passing these extensive borders, the country rapidly improves into an endless variety of hill and dale clothed with the most luxuriant herbage, and large spreading trees. A variety of flowering shrubs, unknown in Europe, of the most exquisite perfume, abound in those parts which are free from trees, and among these a remarkably tall shrub, bearing an elegant flower, which to the smell resembles the English maytree, but much more powerful, and peculiarly delightful, perfuming the air to a vast distance.

The chief vegetable produce of the colony is, wheat, maize, barley, oats, and rye; potatoes, cabbages, carrots, turnips, peas, beans, lettuces, onions, and in fact, almost all kinds of English vegetables,

some of which improve in this new soil, and some degenerate. Fruit trees of all sorts flourish remarkably well. Peaches, apricots, nectarines, grapes, pears, plums, figs, oranges, pomegranates, and melons, attain the highest degree of perfection and maturity in the open air; even the pineapple is produced with very little artificial heat. The apple, the currant, and the gooseberry do not thrive so well; raspberries and strawberries grow in great abundance.

In the quadrupeds of New Holland there is a striking diversity from those found in other quarters of the globe. Of these, the principal is the kangaroo, the flesh of which is highly estimated by the settlers. The remarkable peculiarity of this animal is the disproportion between its fore and hind legs—the former not half the length of the latter. It is, nevertheless, exceedingly swift, and bounds over bushes seven or eight feet high. The *wombat* is another animal peculiar to this part of the globe. It is a squab, thick, and short-legged quadruped, slow of foot, and about the size of a large dog. There is also a species of dog, very different to those known in Europe, which is exceedingly fierce, and difficult to be tamed. Another singular animal is the *ormithorpe lynchus paradoxus*, an amphibious creature, with the body of a quadruped, and the head and beak of a bird. Besides these animals, there are several varieties of the opossum, the flying squirrel, and the kangaroo rat.

The domestic animals have all been imported by the colonists ; and with the exception of the goat, they have all very rapidly multiplied. Among the birds, the most remarkable are the ostrich, the emu, the cassowary, and the black swan. Eagles of uncommon size and strength are found in the mountains. The beautiful bird of paradise is found here, and a great variety of the smaller kinds of the feathered creation. Several sorts of serpents, enormous spiders, and scolopandras are also met with here. Shell-fish are found in great numbers on the coast, as well as shoals of whales, sharks and dolphins.

The aboriginal tribes of New Holland are represented as the most miserable and savage race of mortals upon earth.* They go entirely naked, and, pleased at first with any ornament that may be given

* It has already been mentioned that "*the islands of the sea,*" contiguous to the coast of New Holland, are very numerous ; and it appears that while the natives have all of them habits and customs, which lead us to believe they originally sprang from one common stock, yet, generally speaking, their manners and language differ very much from each other. For this reason we have deemed it advisable to give the accounts of various historians, at the same time taking the liberty of interspersing them with some explanatory remarks of our own. We consider that nothing which relates to a people to whose distant shores thousands of our countrymen are yearly emigrating, will be deemed unacceptable, and it is for the information of these that we chiefly write.

them, they soon become tired of it, and throw it away. Their natural colour is rather a deep chocolate than black ; but the custom of colouring their skins with gums and ochres of a red or black hue, renders it almost impossible to tell what the native colour really is, for unctuous matter is poured upon the infant as soon as it is born. This fact at all events, we think, proves clearly that they are not satisfied with the hue in which nature has arrayed them, as were that so, they would not thwart her wise intentions by having recourse to artificial and inelegant bedaubings.

Their hair is also filled and matted with the same preparation, and feathers are inserted. Some of the tribes render their bodies hideous by incising them in the most fleshy parts by means of sharp shells, &c. ; but in their folly they consider that the unseemly gashes add to their beauty. Some of them perforate the cartilage of the nose, and wear a large piece of bone, or other *splendid* ornament through it. Although they thus put on "the outward adorning" of red, black, and occasionally white paint, it is a remarkable fact that the most common feathers, at least in the estimation of Europeans, are used at their toilet, while the beautiful plumage of the birds of paradise, and others equally splendid, are repudiated. In some of the tribes most of the men have a tooth deficient in the upper jaw, and this is deemed a badge of honour ! and it is equally common with

the women to cut off the first two joints of the little finger of the left hand ;—they assign as a reason for this, that it is in their way when they wind their fishing-lines ! Many of the native tribes are athletic and well-proportioned, but others are under the standard of average European altitude. They live chiefly on fish, which they capture sometimes in nets, and sometimes by spearing. When they retire to the interior they subsist upon kangaroos, opossums, berries, fruit and vegetables. Generally speaking they are wandering tribes, and never locate for any period in one place. Naturally indolent as they are, with respect to migration, locomotion appears to be interwoven in their nature. Their temporary hovels or huts, if they deserve the name, are formed of bark of trees, grass, &c., each containing space enough for a single person, without any room for an article of furniture or convenience. Their largest clans seldom extend beyond the family circle ; and from their familiar and promiscuous intercourse it may be supposed to be diverse in its ramifications. Of the benefits arising from social life they appear to have very crude ideas ; and the only one observable is, that the elder of the tribe is called by a name which is synonymous with “ father ;” but it would seem that like other children, “ whose *lines are cast in pleasant places, and who have a goodly heritage,*” they neglect to “ obey,” while the “ honour ” they manifest is too often com-

pulsory, instead of the emanation of filial affection.

Having no impelling motive to the performance of a good action, and nothing to deter them from a bad one, no wonder that they are sunk so low in the thermometer, and almost to the very zero, of civilization. When a woman dies in the hour of parturition, or while a sucking child is yet by her side, it is customary for the babe to be thrown into the same grave, when the father throws a stone upon his offspring and her who bore it, and his example is followed by the rest of the tribe. Parental care appears never to have suggested itself to the minds of these rude and barbarous people. The nearest relations in the same tribe are also perpetually the victims to the worst of passions, and feuds are continually arising among them, which call forth "*an expiation by blood,*" and that is made either in open combat or by secret stratagem. Should it be a matter which has called forth judicial recognition, the person who is adjudged guilty is obliged to expose himself to the spears of the injured family, and as many as choose are allowed to hurl their deadly spears at him from a certain distance. If he be able to parry the shafts by his dexterity, or sinks under them, dreadfully wounded, a reconciliation immediately takes place, and friendship supersedes animosity; but should the criminal refuse to undergo this ordeal, both himself and family are

considered fair game for murder and attack wherever they are met with. Even in the article of love they show a savage ferocity, for the first act of courtship is for the young man to knock down the girl he desires for his companion with a heavy club; and then, while in a state of insensibility, drag her away from her friends; hence it is that scarcely any woman among them, who has lived in a state of sexual intercourse, but what has a scar on her person, which is deemed a mark of her paramour's affection!

THE BRAVE GRAHAM.

It is with pleasure that we, almost at the close of the twelfth hour, have it in our power to announce that the Colonial Government, in addition to his emancipation from slavery, presented Graham with thirty guineas, for his enterprise in the rescue of Mrs. Fraser, Baxter, and the others from captivity; and that the conditional pardon granted by Governor Bourke, has been made a general one by the *fiat* of the Home Secretary. We feel induced to say more about Graham, whose interesting "log book" we hoped to have appended to our narrative, but in this expectation, we are sorry to say we have been disappointed. We console ourselves that Graham is a free man, and we are informed intends to proceed to England.

BRITISH BENEVOLENCE.—THE FRASER FUND.

No sooner had the melancholy recital of the sufferings of the survivors of *the wreck of the Stirling Castle* been made to the Lord Mayor, than he expressed a confidence, that if upon investigation, the details should prove correct, (*which we are happy to say has proved to be the case,*) the public, and more especially British females, would readily contribute toward the present comfort and future support of the widow of Captain Fraser, and his three orphan children. His lordship's anticipation, as we shall show in the sequel, was founded upon a proper estimate of true English feeling, for no sooner had the narrative given before him at the Mansion House by Mrs. Fraser and others, gone the ordinary circuit through the medium of the public press, than the streams of benevolence flowed from various sources, and from all grades of the community, so that his lordship became the depository of a sum, the amount of which by far exceeded his most sanguine expectations.

We feel quite sure that the public will be gratified by receiving an account of the sum received, and the manner in which it has been disposed of; and indeed it is what the donors especially are entitled to. When it is considered that the money flowed in spontaneously, without any appeal to public sympathy by advertisement,

it is a proof that the chord of philanthropy need only receive a gentle touch to cause it to vibrate, and respond to the calls of the widow and the fatherless.

We have been favoured by the chief magistrate with an account of the amount of subscriptions which he received from a generous and humane public; a general statement of which we have much pleasure in submitting to the public.

AMOUNT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

	£.	s.	d.
Received at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor, on behalf of Mrs. Fraser and her three orphan children	-	-	-
	553	7	2

DISBURSED AS FOLLOWS.

Cash paid to Mrs. Wilkinson for necessaries supplied to Mrs. Fraser	-	-	-	1	6	0
Cash paid to Mrs. Fraser, (together with some useful articles of apparel supplied by a lady in Baker Street)	-	-	-	50	0	0
Cash transmitted to Rothsay for the use of Mrs. Cook, the aged and widowed mother of Brown, the chief officer, on whom she depended for support.	-	-	-	10	0	0
Cash paid to John Baxter, the second officer	-	-	-	10	0	0
Cash remitted to the Rev. P. Learmouth, and the Kirk Session of Stromness, <i>in Trust</i> for the benefit of <i>the three orphan children</i> of the late Captain Fraser	-	-	-	482	1	2
				<u>553</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>

The list of contributors being very numerous, and the amounts varying from 2s. 6d. to £10. and upwards, we have not space to insert them here, but it may be inspected at any time, by applying to the publisher. But it will not be deemed an invidious distinction when we notice that His Grace the Duke of Devonshire kindly contributed £26. to the fund.

CONCLUSION.

It now becomes our pleasing duty to pen a few words by way of farewell address, and it is rendered doubly so, because we have been enabled to redeem every pledge which was given in our introductory announcement. It cannot be a grateful task to detail the deaths, sufferings and privations of our fellow-creatures, who are not only exposed to the violence of the stormy ocean, but also to the diabolical insults of men, whose habitations are those of blood and cruelty; nevertheless the irksomeness of such a task is in a great degree neutralized by the more pleasing record of the deliverances and mercies of Him "*who carries the winds in his fists, and the waters in the hollow of his hand,*" and visits with his benign presence "*the dark places of the earth.*"

We promised that we would detail the facts which came to our knowledge "with the pen of fidelity," and we have kept our word, for we have neither distorted, exaggerated, nor amplified them, excepting when explanation became necessary.

We have used every effort to detect error, had it existed, and to obtain and vindicate truth; and proud are we that the *viva voce* statements of the late Mrs. Fraser, Baxter, Darge, and Ireland, have been confirmed by testimony as incontrovertible in its character, as the source from which it flowed is respectable.

In order to enliven our pages, and divert the mind from the tragic horrors with which our narrations abound, we have introduced a variety of topics connected with the distant part of the globe to which our history has an especial reference—such as the manners and customs of the aborigines, and the natural history of the islands in which their habitations are located.

The melancholy wrecks which form the foundation of our history, have excited us to procure every possible information relative to the dangerous passage from Australia to India by way of *Torres Straits*; and among the interesting embellishments with which the work abounds, will be found a map which points out a course, by attention to which the destruction of vessels and distresses of the mariner would be less frequent; and we have carefully noted down the latitude and longitude of the various places referred to in the course of the work.

Our history exhibits not only a detail of the barbarity of the heathen, but also the benevolence of the Christian; and moreover the splendid

liberality of a generous public, who voluntarily transmitted, from various sources, to the Lord Mayor of the first city in the world, the sum of *five hundred and fifty-three pounds, seven shillings, and two pence*, for the benefit of the fatherless children of the late Captain Fraser, and others who were connected with this perilous enterprise.

We are sure that the gallant conduct of a British officer, as well as the intrepidity of an exiled convict, will be admired, as, but for their united exertions, in all probability, none of the persons connected with the Stirling Castle would have ever reached their native land to detail the awful end of their kindred and friends.

It has been a constant *desideratum* with us as to what methods can be adopted to civilize at least the natives of the barbarous island of which our history treats. We have collected the opinions of many upon this all-important subject, nor have we failed to note down our own.

In page 16 we announced that we should give some account of the wreck of the CHARLES EATON; and we have spared neither trouble nor expence in order to ascertain the full particulars of the sufferings and melancholy end of the crew and passengers of that ill-fated vessel. In doing this, we have been assisted not only by several official documents, but also by the oral account of the lad John Ireland. It was not our intention, at first, to have given so lengthened an account of

the loss of the Charles Eaton, but have been induced to do so, as we found many circumstances connected with it that tended fully to corroborate the accounts given us by the unfortunate crew of the Stirling Castle.

We cannot conclude without beseeching the indulgence of the reader for the style in which we have written this narrative, as we have endeavoured to give, as nearly as possible, a verbatim account, as taken from the lips of the sufferers. At the outset we promised to render the history subservient to the cause of morality, and we trust that we have performed our promise. We considered the subject a melancholy one, and we trust it has been treated with becoming seriousness.

In thus taking our farewell, we would fain express sincerely a hope that our readers may be enabled to shun and avoid the gulfs and quicksands with which the stormy ocean of life abounds, until they finally reach that shore of serenity and peace, where tempests never howl, or wrecks are known; where the cruel and "*the wicked cease from troubling.*"

‘There shall we bathe our weary soul
In seas of heavenly rest,
And not a wave of trouble roll
Across our peaceful breast.’—DR. WATTS.

Through the kindness of the highly-respected Secretary of the London Missionary Society, we

are enabled to give a faithful representation of the manner in which the skulls of the unfortunate crew and passengers of the Charles Eaton were arranged by the savages on Boydary Island. For a full description of this emblem of barbarity, refer to page 296 of this volume



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